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Publication of Information & Public Relations Department

Hon'ble Chief Minister visits dairy farm in Buffalo, apprises himself of techniques

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** visited a dairy farm in Buffalo during his official visit to the United States of America on 02.09.2019.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister was briefed about the techniques of genetic preservation of cows of various countries and on how to create high milk-yielding cow breeds. The Hon'ble Chief Minister learnt about the techniques of developing disease resistant high milk-yielding cows and goats and the processing and preservation of milk and other milk products.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister enquired about the possibilities of replicating the techniques in the world class Veterinary Park to be established at Thalaivasal in Salem District. He evinced keen interest in knowing the techniques of low-ceiling sheds, management of manure, identification of each and every milk-yielding cow, maintenance of animal health, balanced feed, feed banks, farm registration methods, reducing the impact of hot and cold conditions, records of newly born calves, immunization chart for animals, treatment for endometriosis, mastitis, foetus disorder and other contagious diseases.

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The Tamils are known for their sincerity and hard work. It is such hard work that has elevated you. Tamil Nadu now needs your hard work. For that, you must come forward to invest wholeheartedly and unreservedly in starting industries in Tamil Nadu.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** was informed by Dr. Kondal Reddy Kandadi, Vice Chancellor of Bolton University, Greater Manchester, United Kingdom, of the University's interest in signing an MoU with the Tamil Nadu Health and Social Welfare Department, for giving skill development training in specialized treatment in areas like Psychiatric Medicine and Radiation Surgery.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's overseas tour brings manifold gains in many fields

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 10.09.2019 (English Translation)

I undertook an official tour of England, the United States of America and Dubai from 28.08.2019 to 10.09.2019, to study the urban infrastructure and modern technologies in foreign countries for implementing them in Tamil Nadu and to attract large-scale investments to the State from overseas Tamils and investors.

Accordingly, I reached London, the capital of England on 28.08.2019, and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with the International Skill Development Corporation and with the King's College Hospital, with the former for assessing the skill development of doctors and medical staff in England and implementing the same in Tamil Nadu and with the latter for establishing a branch of the hospital here.

At Suffolk City, I acquainted myself with Enzen company's methods of integrating non-traditional energy sources like solar and wind energy into their smart grid systems. A statement of Intent was signed with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on containing the menace of mosquitoes that cause diseases like dengue and malaria and the methods of handling such diseases. Furthermore, on seeing the operations of the London Ambulance Service, it was proposed to adopt their accurate methods in the '108' ambulance service in Tamil Nadu.

On 29.08.2019, I briefed British Members of Parliament at the House of Commons conference hall, on the investment possibilities in Tamil Nadu, the benefits that will accrue to investors and appealed for greater investments in Tamil Nadu.

In the next leg of my tour, I visited a dairy farm in Buffalo City in the US on 02.09.2019, and studied the technology employed for producing cross-breed cattle that are disease resistant and high milk yielding and also learnt of the new technologies used for processing milk and other milk products. I discussed how the breeding and processing techniques followed in the dairy farm could be applied in the world class Livestock Park proposed to be set up at Thalaivasal, Salem District.

On 03.09.2019, MoUs were signed at the Investors Meet held at New York for starting

industries in Tamil Nadu, with an investment of Rs.2,780 crore. This will provide employment opportunities to about 20,000 persons. Also, Haldia Petrochemicals company people met me and held consultations for starting an industry with Naphtha Cracker Unit.

After this, I inaugurated a scheme '*Yaadhum Oorey*' in New York to bring world Tamils together and attract investment from overseas Tamils.

At the Investors Meet held at the city of San Jose on 04.09.2019, MoUs were signed for starting industries in Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs.2,300 crore. This will provide employment opportunities to more than 6,500 persons. Also, I inaugurated the Digital Accelerator scheme, proposed to be implemented with the help of the American Tamil Entrepreneurs Association (ATEA) for providing the needed help to entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu. The State Government will provide 10 per cent of the capital needs of entrepreneurs of Tamil Nadu who start new industries through this scheme. A sum of Rs.50 crore will be allotted for this.

On 05.09.2019, I visited Tesla Inc. in San Francisco, USA and saw its environment-friendly products like electric vehicles, batteries, as well as its power generation and conservation. I requested the Tesla company to locate in Tamil Nadu, its unit for the manufacture electric cars in India.

I also visited the Bloom Energy Company, started by Thiru. Sridhar of Tamil Nadu in San Francisco, and held consultations about easy generation of clean energy and on employing its technologies in Tamil Nadu.

On 06.09.2019, Thiru. Sidhu, Mayor of Anaheim city, Los Angeles received me and showed me the centre where waste water is re-cycled and made into potable water. The best technology is employed there to treat waste water. I saw the technology through which the treated water is re-cycled and used in toilets, gardens and to water trees. The treated waste water is stored in lakes for rejuvenating ground water and then the ground water is circulated for drinking purposes. Anaheim's Mayor has come forward to give all assistance for setting up a pilot model treatment plant since such re-cycling of treated water will reduce the demand on fresh water in Chennai and other Municipal Corporations and also avert environmental pollution. Hence, efforts will be made to set up a model unit in Tamil Nadu to treat waste water and convert it into fresh water.

On the completion of the American tour, I went to Dubai on 09.09.2019 and participated as a special guest in the Dubai Industrial Entrepreneur Consultative meeting, organized jointly by the Business Leaders Forum, functioning under the Department of Economy and Trade, United Arab Emirates Government and the Indian Consulate. MoUs were signed with 6 companies at that meeting for starting industries in Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs.3,750 crore. Through this, more than 10,800 persons will get job opportunities. This was followed by a meeting with industrial entrepreneurs in Dubai and I invited them to start industries in Tamil Nadu on a large scale.

The first-hand knowledge that I gained through this tour, of the many schemes, technologies and structural planning in urban and rural areas, will help in implementing them

in Tamil Nadu, thus enabling us to keep the State in its premier position in the Country.

I convey my hearty thanks to overseas Tamils, industrial establishments, IT companies, overseas voluntary organisations and Indian Embassy officials for making this tour a superb and successful one.

Through this official tour of England, USA and Dubai, investments to the tune of Rs.8,835 crore were attracted and through the signing of MoUs with 41 companies, job opportunities for more than 35,520 persons would be created.

Countries like England, USA and Dubai give priority to tourism. Hon'ble Amma's Government also, on the same lines, will give greater importance to tourism and take steps to create the best tourist centres in the State.

I found that foreign investors, especially overseas Tamil youth, are eager to invest in many sectors in Tamil Nadu. This tour has been greatly helpful to Hon'ble Amma's Government to work with a new impetus to attract more investments by strengthening the organizations that are in the forefront of extending all help to attract overseas investments, and the single window system. This will contribute to industrial growth and create more job opportunities for Tamil youth.

Besides helping attract foreign investments, this tour has created a great confidence in foreign investors about Tamil Nadu. It was a success also because it was immensely helpful in giving a direct understanding of technology and management.

111th Birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** paid floral homage to Perarignar Anna on the occasion of his 111th birth anniversary on 15.09.2019, by sprinkling flowers on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government on a decorated portrait placed near his statue on Anna Salai, Chennai. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary Thiru. K.Shanmugam I.A.S., MPs and MLAs were also present on the occasion.

King's Hospital provides inspiration for copter ambulance in Tamil Nadu

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the Kings Medical College Hospital, London on 29.08.2019

I am duty-bound on this occasion to wholeheartedly commend the doctors serving in this Kings Medical College Hospital. Not only that. They have announced that they are going to open a branch of the Kings Medical College Hospital in Tamil Nadu and I give the assurance that the Tami Nadu Government will give its fullest co-operation in this matter. I thank the hospital authorities on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the people of Tamil Nadu for creating an environment in which all the facilities that are available in this Kings Hospital in London can be provided to all the people of Tamil Nadu.

After visiting various places, I found that Kings Hospital truly stands out as the best hospital. The hospital's scheme to bring critically ill patients by helicopter is really to be lauded. Today, I visited Robinson Helicopter base also. We have decided to set up a similar arrangement in Chennai also. Precious lives are likely to be lost if patients are unable to come from long distances to hospitals in urban areas. To prevent such an eventuality, the hospital has made this wonderful arrangement to bring patients at the right time for proper treatment. I am happy to announce that in a similar manner, the Tamil Nadu Government will take steps to introduce helicopter ambulance service in the State to bring patients to hospital in time.

Hon'ble Chief Minister makes strong pitch for British investments in Tamil Nadu

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in United Kingdom Parliament on 29.08.2019.

Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other dignitaries,

Good evening one and all !

Tamil Nadu is a front runner among Indian States in various health indicators.

Our policy interventions, introduction of several novel schemes and increased funding played an important role in the State's improved health outcomes.

Tamil Nadu has already achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set by the United Nations and it is poised to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the Health Sector, ahead of 2030.

My Government is implementing a massive Insurance scheme for 15.8 million families at an annual cost of 140 million US Dollars for giving free medical treatment which includes 1,027 medical procedures.

My Government is implementing a number of health programmes focusing on women and children. Primary health centres provide 24 hours delivery care services and

Tamil Nadu is one of the few states in India, where institutional delivery is almost 100 per cent.

Tamil Nadu has the highest per capita availability of Doctors and qualified health care professionals in India. The Doctors and nurses from Tamil Nadu contribute immensely to NHS.

We have learnt the expertise available in UK and will be upgrading our health care delivery systems to better standards.

Tamil Nadu, with its vast industrial base, hosting 18% of the Country's Institutions of higher learning and quality of living, is the best investment destination in India, today.

Frost & Sullivan published a ranking of Indian States in 2018, in which, Tamil Nadu stood second in overall performance and ranked first in investment potential.

Further, the Public Affairs Index 2018, published by the Public Affairs Centre, recognized Tamil Nadu as the Second Best Governed State in the Country.

"India Today" Magazine, in its "State of the States ranking 2018", placed Tamil Nadu in the number one position in the overall performance category, maintenance of Law and Order and in Tourism.

The Global Investors Meet, 2019 hosted by my Government attracted investors from all over the world, particularly from countries like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, France, USA, Germany and Finland in which 304 MoU's were signed, amounting to more than 43 billion US Dollars.

The State's major exports include automobiles and auto-parts, textiles, leather products and electronic goods. 45% of India's automobile exports, 34% of India's automobile component exports, and 16% of India's electronic exports are from Tamil Nadu.

To take Tamil Nadu to the next level, we have taken many steps like:

❖ A state supported "Alternative Investment Fund" which will facilitate investment by global investors, in the area of economic infrastructure.

❖ A Social Impact Fund (with seed capital from the State, World Bank and Asian Development Bank) to fund affordable housing for the lower income groups and vulnerable sections of society.

❖ A bio technology fund to help promote this sunrise industry in India.

❖ These funds are managed by an independent Fund Manager, where the State has a minority equity holding, to ensure its independence and professionalism.

❖ We look forward to working with you to create a new paradigm for funding green energy, water, urban infrastructure and affordable housing.

Thank you!

Hon'ble Chief Minister successfully persuades US industrialists for investments

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the Investors' Meet in New York in America on 03.09.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, after meeting educationists and investors in England and signing Memoranda of Understanding in the public health sector, proceeded to New York in the United States of America, and presided over an Investors Meet on 03.09.2019 to give impetus to industrial growth in Tamil Nadu.

Over 200 investors participated in the meeting. Representatives of American companies Caterpillar and Ford, which have set up their units in Tamil Nadu, shared their experiences with the participants. Former US Ambassador to India, Thiru. Frank Wisner also shared his experiences of Tamil Nadu at the meet. Following this, a power-point presentation titled 'Tamil Nadu, the ideal State for Investment' was also shown at the meet.

Tamil Nadu is an ideal place for investments for expanding Information Technology companies, Fintech - based companies, Aerospace companies that require the next stage of automobile manufacturing techniques, companies using space technology and electric car manufacturing units.

Stressing on the suitability of Tamil Nadu for investments, the Hon'ble Chief Minister listed the concessions offered by Hon'ble Amma's Government to industrialists and the conducive factors like uninterrupted power

supply, best infrastructure and skilled work force. Given such a scenario, the Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to US industrialists to invest in a big way in Tamil Nadu.

At the end of the meeting, 16 companies including, Jean Martin, Aquil Systems, Scitus Pharma, Nurray Chemicals. Novitium Labs, Jogo Health, ST LNG, Saram 4, Emerson, Aspire Consulting, Revature-LLC and Zillion Technologies signed Memoranda of Understanding for investments worth Rs.2,780 crore.

Apart from these companies, Haldia Petrochemicals expressed its wish to start Naphtha Cracker-based Unit in the first phase at a cost of Rs.50,000 crore and signed an agreement in principle.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also held direct consultations with industry representatives Melissa Kessler, Mark Johnson, Kay and Lincoln, Warran Knapp and Manish Bhandari on improving investments in Tamil Nadu.

Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed his satisfaction and said that it was heart-warming that over 200 investors participated in the meeting. Hon'ble Amma's Government, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said, will encourage and enthuse the industrialists who come to invest in Tamil Nadu. Apart from mainstream industries, the Tamil Nadu Government will continue to support agriculture-based industries and veterinary and dairy-based industries for enhancing the income of farmers.

At the meeting presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for investments worth Rs.2,780 crore were signed which would lead to employment opportunities to over 20,000 youth.

141st Birth anniversary of Thanthai Periyar

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** paid floral homage to Thanthai Periyar on the occasion of his 141st birth anniversary on 17.09.2019, by sprinkling flowers on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government on a decorated portrait placed near his statue on Anna Salai, Chennai. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary Thiru. K.Shanmugam I.A.S., MPs, MLAs and high Government officials were present on the occasion.

September 5 - Teacher's Day

'Teachers should show students affection so that they learn better'

Teacher's Day message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 04.09.2019 *(English Translation)*

We are happy to celebrate Teacher's Day on September 5th every year, the birth anniversary of Dr. S.Radhakrishnan, who was born in Tamil Nadu, worked as a teacher and rose to occupy the highest post the President of India, through his ennobling thought and conduct.

Valluvar's couplet '*Kaedil vizhuchelvam kalvi oruvarkku/ maadalla matrai yavai*' asserts that education alone is the imperishable wealth that one can have. If there is one tool which can destroy ignorance and poverty, it is education. It is no exaggeration to say that teachers have the honour of providing that education to students.

Dr. Radhakrishnan understood that next to parents, teachers must show love and affection to students who come to learn from them, if they are to imbibe the best education and help social development. He worked accordingly and brought the greatest honour to the profession of teaching. Teachers should follow his path and educate their students on good ideals and social sensibilities.

The service of teachers who shape good students by effectively using the innumerable schemes implemented by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government, is a laudable one. I offer my hearty 'Teacher's Day' good wishes to teachers who are toiling day and night for the well-being of the student community.

'The magic of Tamil brings us together'

Hon'ble Chief Minister unveils '*Yaadhum Oorey*' to overseas Tamils to attract investments

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in New York on 04.09.2019, after inaugurating the *'Yaadhum Oorey'* Scheme to attract investments in Tamil Nadu from US-based Tamils.

By taking the great culture and intellectual prowess of Tamils to the corners of the globe, you are adding lustre to the Tamil language and the Tamil land. I know that whichever part of the world you live in, your heart beats for Tamil and the Tamil Country is always in your thoughts.

Tamils excel in many fields and occupy positions in global companies at the forefront of technology, and in factories as well as in emerging fields. They show great artistic talent. They have also started concerns in many countries. This is in keeping with Bharatiyar's verse,

"*Cheenam, Misiram, Yavana ragam – Innum*
Desam Palavum Oliveesi – Kalai
Gnaanam Padaithozhil Vaanibamum – Miga
Nangu Valarndha Thamizh Nadu"

which says that Tamil Nadu excelled through expertise, weaponry and trade that reached China, Egypt, Greece and Rome. In this way, today Tamil Nadu stands tall through the work of millions of Tamils.

Tamil Nadu must excel as a State which is at the forefront of prosperity and growth in

an India in which poverty is annihilated. The people of Tamil Nadu must be provided all the basic services needed by a modern society, and they must grow further in tune with their collective values. Hon'ble Amma asserted that this is her vision for Tamil Nadu, and my Government is proceeding ahead in the path carved out by her.

Towards this end, to get the excellent advice of Tamils living worldwide on further improving the industrial growth of Tamil Nadu which is already the premier State in India, and to assure Tamils who come to Tamil Nadu to start industries that they will be given a red-carpet welcome, as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu I have come to you for the first time on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government.

The nobility of thought and the breadth of vision of our forefathers from thousands of years ago, stands out even today in *Kaniyan Poonkundranaar's* immortal line, *'Yaadhum Oorey, Yaavarum Kelir'* (The world is my home, all its inhabitants are my kinsmen). Taking a cue from this precious line, I announced in the recently concluded session of the Tamil Nadu Assembly that the Tamil Nadu Government would announce a new scheme titled, *'Yaadhum Oorey'*.

I am happy to announce that this scheme has been conceived as a new bridge to Tamils living throughout the world. This has been given a separate App in the website of the Industries Department of the Tamil Nadu Government. Through this App, your investment proposals will come directly to the Tamil Nadu Government. If you want to invest in Tamil Nadu, this App will provide you all the necessary information.

Tamil Nadu's excellent administration, peaceful atmosphere, efficient human resources, unparalleled infrastructure, continuous power supply, and its geographical position as the gateway of India are borne out by the interest of multi-national companies to start their industries in the State.

In the recently concluded global investors' meet, we received assurances for investments worth about Rs.3 lakh crore through 304 memoranda of understanding. I am happy to announce that of these 304 MoUs, 220 firms have already started their investments. There is no greater proof than this that it is now spring season for industrial development in Tamil Nadu. You have all gone in different directions from Tamil Nadu and have won laurels in your fields. I request you all, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government and for the good of the State, to be the investment ambassadors who will take the Tamil Nadu story – the great industrial scenario obtaining in the State and the profitability of making investments in it – all round the world.

In the *'Sange Muzhangu'* song, Bharatidasan sings of Tamil being our life as well as our wealth. We have joined here today in Bharathidasan's way. This day should be a golden day for Tamil Nadu. I have no doubt that this new initiative will pave the way for a continuous and sustainable growth of Tamil Nadu. I assure you that Amma's Government and the people of the State will stand by you in this endeavour. At the

industrial investors meet held earlier in the afternoon, 16 MoUs were signed. Through these, investments to the tune of Rs.2,780 crore are expected. I thank the investors on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of the State.

Tamils are always sincere and hardworking. It is this sincerity and hard work that has elevated you to this level in this country. Tamil Nadu too should benefit from your hard work. For that you must come forward to invest in the State wholeheartedly. We have all joined under the umbrella of Tamils though we belong to different places in Tamil Nadu and you all work in the United States as industrialists, doctors and engineers. The word Tamil has a magical attraction. While complimenting you on your success in this country, I sincerely appeal to you to invest unreservedly in Tamil Nadu.

As far as I am concerned, I have come up one step above in the political ladder. I never dreamt that I would become Chief Minister of the State. But I got an opportunity. Due to my sincerity to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I came up in politics. I contested Assembly elections six times and Parliamentary elections 3 times and won on many occasions and didn't make it on some. Due to sheer hard work, I stand before you as the Chief Minister of the State. You are all here because of your hard work. I am able to meet you all because I am the Chief Minister. You also meet me because of this. God has given me this opportunity of meeting you. God has united Tamil brethren in this way. I thank God for this. I also thank the office-bearers of the Tamil Sangam for organizing this function. On this occasion, I wish you prosperity and happiness and request you to bring glory to Tamil Nadu. ■

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat in Chennai on 22.08.2019, presented the Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam Award to ISRO Chairman Dr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan. The award consists of a gold medal, a cheque and a commendation certificate.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's foreign campaign for investments reaps rich dividends

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami undertook a tour of the America to invite entrepreneurs in the America and Members of the Tamil diaspora to set up businesses in Tamil Nadu to take the State further in the path of growth. Sixteen Memoranda of Understanding were signed at the Investors' Meet in New York on 03.09.2019. Through these MoUs, about Rs.2,780 crore of investment in Tamil Nadu has been facilitated with employment opportunities to over 20,000 people.

Another Investors' Meet was held at San Jose City in the America on 04.09.2019. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, who presided over the meeting, assured the investors that the State would give all necessary encouragement and support to those who come forward to start their units in Tamil Nadu. Over 250 investors participated in the meeting. Higher officials of Foxconn, Lincoln Electric and Zoho Corporation, which are already functioning successfully in Tamil Nadu, shared their experiences and details of facilities available in Tamil Nadu with the prospective investors.

A power-point presentation on the infrastructure, technically skilled human resources, uninterrupted power supply, peaceful environment and speedy government clearances was presented on the occasion.

In his presidential address, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami explained in detail why Tamil Nadu is considered as the best place for investment. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also listed the concessions offered by the State for new entrepreneurs and incentives being given to them. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said the State is considered to be the ideal place for industries such as Information Technology, Finetech, Aerospace, Space and manufacture of electric vehicles.

After the meeting, Software companies Lincoln Electric, Wearable Mems, Caldon Biotech, ZL Technologies, Kapisoft, Kloud Learn, Sierra Health Alerts, Acts Global Tech Solutions, Ripe.io, Latent.ao, Achirem, Nature Mills, SAI, ACS Global Tech Solutions, Dotsolved Systems.Inc and DCF Ventures, signed Memoranda of Understanding worth Rs.2,300 crore for investments in Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also inaugurated Digital Accelerator scheme to provide necessary help to entrepreneurs. The scheme is to be implemented with the help of American Tamil Entrepreneurs Association (ATEA) and will provide 10 per cent financial assistance to companies which receive finance from Digital Accelerator for starting their new industries. For this, the Chief Minister announced that the Tamil Nadu Government would allot Rs.50 crore.

After the investors meet, the Hon'ble Chief Minister conducted the '*Yaadhum Oorey'* Scheme meeting at San Jose. In this meeting, Tamil groups from California State and West American areas participated. The Tamil Groups lauded the *Yaadhum Oorey* scheme which brings Tamil people together.

At the meeting, 19 MoUs were signed for an investment of Rs.2,300 crore in Tamil Nadu. Through these MoUs about 6,500 people will get employment opportunities. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was firm that this was only a beginning and in future it would be further expanded to reach the long-term goals, set by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

136th Birth anniversary of Tamil Thendral Thiru.Vi.Ka

In connection with the 136th birth anniversary of Tamil Thendral Thiru.V.Kalyanasundaranar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin and Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, garlanded the statue of Thiru. Vi.Ka. at his native village Thundalam, in Maduravoyal Taluk in Tiruvallur District on 26.08.2019, on behalf of the Department of Tamil Development of the Tamil Nadu Government. Tamil Development Director, Dr.K.Vijayaraghavan, Deputy Director M.C.Thiagarajan, Tamil scholars and Government high officials were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects wind-solar power unit in Suffolk

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, on 30.08.2019, visited IP Switch - Smart Grid Factory in Suffolk, UK and saw the solar and wind energy generation system.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, with a view to knowing about the new technologies available at the International level and implementing them in Tamil Nadu and also to bring investments for Tamil Nadu from Tamils based abroad and from other investors, undertook a 3-day tour of United Kingdom on 28.08.2019.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister enquired about Doctors in England, the Para Medical Staff, the helicopter services and the functions of King's Medical College Hospital with a view to replicate best practices in Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Chief Minister held discussions in the hall of the British Parliament with Parliament Members, industrialists and medical experts for attracting investments in Tamil Nadu.

As a follow up measure, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited IP Switch and Smart Grid Factory in Suffolk, UK and enquired about simple ways to link solar and wind energy generation system with the main grid. He keenly enquired about the technology used in IP Switch - Smart Grid Factory and also briefly held discussions on implementation of the same technology in Tamil Nadu.

‘Vice President Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu is a great friend of Tamil Nadu’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at a function held on 11.08.2019, to mark the publication of ‘Listening, Learning & Leading...’, a book on the completion of two years in office of the Hon’ble Vice President of India,
Thiru. M. Venkaiah Naidu. (*English Translation*)

My morning greetings to all the assembled persons here.

I am extremely happy to participate in the function being held to release the book ‘Listening, Learning and Leading...’, written by the Hon’ble Vice President of India Thiru. M.Venkaiah Naidu on his experiences in life.

At the outset, I offer my respects to all the participants in this pleasant function- Hon’ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon’ble Union Home Minister Thiru. Amit Shah, Hon’ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information & Broadcasting Thiru. Prakash Javadekar, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Agriculture Scientist Professor M.S.Swaminathan, Chancellor, Central University of Rajasthan Dr.Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, former Attorney General of India Thiru.K.Parasaran, Super Star Thiru. Rajnikanth, Editor of Tuglak magazine Thiru. Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Thiru. P.C.Reddy, Founder and Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology Dr.G. Viswanathan, Respected Members of Parliament and Legislature, former Members

of Parliament and Legislature, Elders, Ladies, Newspaper and Media friends.

Thirukural says:

"Kaatchikku eliyan, kaduncholIan allanael meekoorum mannan nilam"

The verse means that when the king is easy to approach and avoids harsh words, his realm will be esteemed by the world over every other country. As per the definition of *Valluvar Perunthagai*, our Hon'ble Vice President of India is easily accessible and charms college students, youth and women. He is also gifted with sweet speech and is a tireless worker for the people of Bharat. His life is proof of the adage that only 'Work Uplifts' (*Uzhaippe Uyarvu*).

Born on July 1st, 1949 in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, even while studying he joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh as a simple volunteer and started serving society. Later, he held different posts in the Jan Sangh, Janata Party and Bharatiya Janata Party. He rose to become the President of Bharatiya Janata Party in 2002. Between 2000 and 2002, he was Minister for Rural Development and Water Supply in the then Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru.Vajpayee's Cabinet.

Later, in 2014, Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu Garu worked as the Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, in the Government headed by Thiru. Narendra Modiji. On this same day in 2017, he became the Vice President of the Indian Republic and in that capacity, Chairman of Rajya Sabha. He earned the respect of all the members of the House, irrespective of their party affiliation, because of his friendly approach.

I wish to mention another event. At the foundation laying function for the extension of Chennai Metro Rail services from Washermanpet to Thiruvottiyur-Wimco Nagar, our Hon'ble Amma, in her speech, said: "I had ordered that this function should be held on a Saturday when Parliament does not meet, so as to enable Thiru.Venkaiah Naidu to participate without fail. I am extremely happy that Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu is participating in this function. This is so because it will not be an exaggeration to say that it was he who got the Central Government's approval for this Metro Rail extension scheme."

Our Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma used to say that Hon'ble Venkaiah Naidu is a sincere friend of Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Vice President continues to shower love and affection on us to this day. For getting digital license to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited, our Vice President was highly supportive of us.

It is still green in my mind that he jointly inaugurated on 14.05.2017 with me, when he was Central Minister for Urban Development, the Metro Rail service from Thirumangalam to Nehru Park. On the same day, he held a review meeting on the implementation of Central Government schemes in Tamil Nadu at the Secretariat, and it is no exaggeration to say that he acted as a bridge for our State's plans to get the Centre's approval.

Even after the demise of Hon'ble Amma, he helps, till date, to get Central Government's green signal for Hon'ble Amma Government's plans.

A golden saying of Perarignar Anna was that truth, hard work and high thinking must be applauded; amiability, humility and courage must be followed; and duty, dignity and discipline must be cherished in one's conduct. It is no exaggeration to say that Hon'ble Vice President does public service even today as envisaged in this saying.

The experience he gained as a member of Rajya Sabha for many years and his natural trait of being friendly with members of all parties, have elevated him to the post of Vice President of India. He is a staunch believer that service to people is more important than holding a Government post. His efficiency in every position that he occupied, based on experience, intelligence and dedication, earned our Vice President the appreciation of all.

In the events he participates in Tamil Nadu, he starts his speech in Tamil and goes on in the language for a few minutes. While interacting with students in Chennai recently, he gave the inspiring instruction that one's mother tongue is like one's eyes and one should never forget motherland, mother tongue and the place of one's birth. He said that both in one's residence as well as outside, one should speak in one's mother tongue, adding that Tamil and Tamil Nadu are close to his heart.

In one of the events at Chennai, our Vice President proudly mentioned that Chennai was drawing international medical tourists on a large scale and it had attained a high place in this type of tourism.

In his valedictory address to the Second Global Investors Meet held recently, Hon'ble Vice President of India said: "Tamil Nadu is supremely rich in cultural heritage. It is a place that is close to my heart as well. I am very happy to learn that it is one of the best performing States of India and has emerged as one of the most sought after investment destinations. I am glad to know that GIM -2019 has attracted substantial investments in Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Services. It is worth noting that NITI Aayog has ranked Tamil Nadu as one of the front-runners in India on many socio-economic parameters." These events show the Vice President's involvement in the State's affairs, and his love and affection for Tamil Nadu and its people.

There can be no doubt that the experiences recounted in this book released today, will be a lesson to all. I can firmly say that this book will be a guide and a catalyst to youth wishing to enter politics and public life.

I pray to God that Hon'ble Vice President of India should be bestowed with a long life for serving India and its people. I take leave, expressing my thanks and appreciation to the organizers of this function.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates Special Grievance Redressal Scheme

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami after inaugurating the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme and distributing welfare measures at Nangavalli in Salem District on 19.08.2019 *(English Translation)*

Paying obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset, I greet all those who have come here to participate in this august function.

Today is a great day as the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme is being inaugurated in the Edappadi Assembly Constituency. This Special Scheme, which was earlier announced, is for the speedy settlement of grievances of the poor and downtrodden people. I am happy to announce that under the scheme all your petitions are examined and solutions are found for eligible petitions. The implementation of the scheme shows that Hon'ble Amma's Government gives top priority to redressing the grievances of the people.

At present, Public Grievance Day is conducted on every Monday and Amma Scheme Camp, under the chairmanship of Tahsildars, on every Friday. Besides, special grievance camps are also conducted for farmers, pensioners and differently-abled persons to redress their grievances.

In these camps, patta transfer, social welfare schemes, old-age pensions under the Chief Minister's *Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam*, scheme benefits for destitute widows and differently-abled, free house site pattas, community certificates and income certificates are issued then and there.

To further strengthen the grievance redressal machinery, Hon'ble Amma's Government has decided to launch the Special Grievance Redressal Scheme, which is inaugurated through this function. Under the scheme, orders have been issued that grievance petitions should be collected directly from people in towns and rural areas and solutions to these petitions found in August and September.

Under the scheme, as per the orders of the District Collectors, on a particular day a committee consisting of officials from Revenue Department, Rural Development Department, Urban Development Department and other Departments will collect petitions directly from the people in wards in Municipalities and villages before end of August. All these petitions will be uploaded digitally and sent to the Departments concerned within a week. Steps will be taken to redress the grievances within a month.

After finding solutions to the petitions, functions will be organized in Taluks under the chairmanship of Ministers in September. Besides the distribution of various welfare schemes in these functions, solutions to people's basic requirements, such as roads, street lights, medical facilities, health and drinking water distribution will be found in these functions. This Special Scheme will serve as an important vehicle of the State Government in redressing the grievances of the people. I would like to inform at this juncture that for proper implementation of the Scheme, the State Government will allot Rs.25,000 to each Taluk totalling Rs.76.25 lakh for the entire State.

I am happy to announce that through this Special Scheme various welfare measures are also distributed. By inaugurating the

Special Redressal Scheme at Edappadi Assembly Constituency today, the scheme is simultaneously inaugurated throughout the State in all the 234 Assembly constituencies. The Special Scheme has been launched to find solutions to petitions given by the poor, the downtrodden, middle class and people from various sections. As announced by the Chief Secretary earlier, the significance of the Scheme inaugurated by the Amma Government is that instead of people approaching officials to redress their grievances, officials will go to people directly to collect petitions and settle their grievances.

Hon'ble Ministers and MLAs are to meet people in their respective Assembly constituencies. As the Chief Minister of the State, I have to concentrate on issues in all the 234 constituencies. In addition to this, I have to visit my constituency Edappadi now and then, meet people, launch new schemes, lay foundation stones for new schemes. Besides, I have to distribute welfare measures in special camps conducted in the constituency at regular intervals. I would like to inform that despite my tour of different parts of the State I give special attention to Edappadi constituency.

In the 2011 Assembly Elections, when I contested from Edappadi Constituency, people placed many demands and I am addressing them one by one. To solve the drinking water problem, I approached Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who readily accepted my demand and issued orders for implementation of Rs.146 crore Mecheri-Nangavalli Drinking water supply scheme. The scheme has now been brought to public use. In this way, the Amma's Government has fulfilled the promise given to people at the time of elections. Under the Hospital development scheme, the Primary Health Centre at Nangavalli has been upgraded into a 30-bed Hospital with the addition of more facilities, appointment of additional doctors and construction of additional buildings. We have opened a new Hospital at Savuriyur. We

have constructed buildings for the Primary Health Centre at Vanavasi. We have provided adequate facilities at the Government Hospital in Jalakandapuram Panchayat Union. Our aim is that people should have a healthier and disease-free life.

Regular medical camps are conducted in all villages, and people are given proper medical treatment by Amma’s Government after diagnosing their illness. Tamil Nadu stands first in the country in the medical field. The State is getting awards continuously from the Central Government for organ transplantations. Treatment provided at the Government Hospitals in the State is on par with private Hospitals. This Amma’s Government is continuing all the schemes that were implemented by Hon’ble Amma.

A fire service station and a bus stand are to be opened at Nangavalli. Bus facilities from here are provided to Coimbatore, Bangalore and Erode. We have laid roads of international standards. Not only Highway roads, even roads in villages are laid with latest machinery so that the standard of rural roads is now equivalent to that of Highway roads. Our Government is one that has been providing facilities to rural people like those available in urban areas.

We have provided street light facilities and LED bulb facility in all places. During 2014 General Assembly Elections, you placed a demand for a polytechnic college here. We have now set up a big polytechnic College in Vanavasi where our students get education at an affordable cost. Similarly, your demand for a bypass road in Jalakandapuram to reduce traffic congestion will soon be fulfilled.

We have set up Hospitals for livestock. We have set up 36 veterinary Hospitals in Salem District and appointed adequate doctors. We have opened a Central Co-operative Bank branch and community hall. We have taken steps for constructing a Perumal Temple at Periyasoragai. We have setup a model school in Savuriyur and a High School at Chinnasoragai. Drainage facilities have been provided at Jalakandapuram, Nangavalli and Vanavasi. We are the only Government that is providing 100 units of power at no cost to all houses. For Handlooms and Powerlooms, we supply power at no cost.

Farmers have requested that surplus water from Mettur Dam should be filled in tanks through pumps. A sum of Rs.565 crore scheme to fill 100 tanks has been prepared, for which fund has been allotted. Work on the scheme is to start soon. You got this opportunity as you got a Chief Minister of the State due to the good intention of the electorate of Edappadi Assembly Constituency. Though there are 234 Assembly constituencies, the man from Edappadi Constituency is the Chief Minister of the State. It is you who have made me the Chief Minister. Because you elected me as the member of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, I am talking before you as the Chief Minister. Petitions given by the people are registered and the schemes are implemented in phases.

We have given many concessions to farmers. We have brought joint farming and integrated farming schemes. This apart, for the farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce, we selected areas in the District where the harvest is normally good. In Salem District we have selected a place in between Omalur and Taramangalam, where work is to begin soon. Farmers can sell their produce there itself or online and get money for their produce immediately. We have started the scheme to enable farmers get remunerative prices for their

produce. A big Food Park is to be started near Chennai, at a cost of Rs.2,000 crore. Through this our farmers will get remunerative prices for their produce.

Animal husbandry is a subsidiary profession for farmers. To develop Animal Husbandry, a Veterinary Park, the biggest of its kind in Asia, is to be set up on a 1,200 acre plot in Salem District, with Veterinary Hospital and Research Centre. Hybrid cows are developed and are given to farmers. Goats, pigs, fish and poultry are reared in this park and given to farmers to double their income. I would like to point out that the Government's aim is to provide schemes to farmers to double their income. To double the milk production, the Government has set up a Semen Separating Research Centre at a cost of Rs.47.50 crore in Ooty.

The Chief Secretary, who is interested in agriculture, belongs to our District. He knows the difficulties of farming. Similarly handloom is also a difficult profession. Only if you work hard you can earn money. We know it is our duty to benefit them also. I would like to point out that it is our primary duty to implement schemes which are beneficial to handloom and powerloom weavers. The Chief Secretary knows the problems in our District well. We will discuss with him and conceive and implement schemes that are beneficial to the people.

Similarly, the Commissioner of Revenue Administration Thiru. Satyagopal I.A.S., is a very good administrator. He knows how to solve the problems confronting the State during heavy rains, floods and drought. I am telling this here as I would like to congratulate him at this juncture. Even though the Government conceives schemes, it is the officials who make them a reality. The Government and the bureaucrats are like two wheels of a cart. Only if they synchronize, the Government machinery will be able to achieve its target. It is the duty of the bureaucrats to take the schemes to the people. Thiru. Atulya Mishra and the

Chief Secretary and respectful Thiru. Satyagopal will definitely implement the Special Redressal Scheme in an excellent manner. During Gaja Cyclone, when the damage was extensive and colossal, it was these officers who brought the State to normalcy. The Government worked in such a manner and provided relief to people affected by heavy rains. It is this Amma's Government in the whole of India which gives priority to farmers in extending drought relief to them and giving more compensation through insurance schemes for crop failures.

When we took office, some predicted that the Government would not survive for more than 10 days or 6 months. But we have completed 2 years and are entering into the third year. The people and the officials are the main reason for the continuation of the present Amma's Government. Only due to your love and support we are marching ahead. If all the schemes are successfully implemented it is due to your love and support.

We are giving suitable schemes for people in urban areas. Under the housing schemes for people below the poverty line in Town Panchayats and municipalities, we are providing houses in multi-storied apartments in co-ordination with the Central Government. We will give pattas to those who have no pattas. This Amma's Government is planning to give housing plots to all poor people who have no housing plots. The Government has been giving old-age pension to elderly people who could not do work due to old age. I am happy to inform that through this function that 5 lakh old people will get old-age pension.

Those who do not have ration cards will be given ration cards. Those who have not been covered by insurance will soon be covered. Ceiling for the medical insurance for the poor and the downtrodden has been increased from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.5 lakh for treatment in Government Hospitals during Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule.

We are providing the necessary medical facilities for the people, benefits for farmers, drinking water facilities and power-cut free electricity. In food production we have been receiving Krishi Karman Awards. Due to this agriculture has improved, industrial growth has increased, power looms and handlooms are flourishing. The Amma's Government is providing all necessary facilities needed by the people. At this juncture, I thank all those who made excellent arrangements for the function at short notice.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami distributed welfare scheme assistance to 9 beneficiaries at the function to inaugurate the Special Grievance Redressal, at Nangavalli in Salem District on 19.08.2019, based on immediate action taken on petitions submitted by the people. The rest of the petitions will be reviewed speedily and eligible people given the benefits of welfare measures.

In the aftermath of heavy rains and landslides in The Nilgiris...

'Rescue and relief work on a war footing to restore normalcy with great speed'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 14.08.2019 *(English Translation)*

Following the landslides and floods caused by the heavy rains that lashed The Nilgiris District from August 6th to 10th, I ordered the District administration to engage in rescue and relief measure in full force.

On the request of The Nilgiris District administration, a total of 456 persons, drawn from State Disaster Rescue Teams, Additional National Disaster Rescue Teams, Police, Fire and Rescue Service Department, staff of all Departments and 66 Army Personnel, were immediately engaged in rescue operations.

Besides, 400 workers of the Highways Department, 720 conservancy staff and 160 electricity board workers – totally 1,280 were engaged in rescue and relief operations. Rescue operations were undertaken on a war footing by using 60 JCB machines, 30 '108' ambulances, 16 generators and 70 wood cutting machines.

On my orders, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar, Additional Chief Secretary/ Commissioner of Revenue Administration Dr. K. Satyagopal I.A.S., went to The Nilgiris District immediately and expedited the rescue and relief works. On 13.08.2019, Hon'ble Deputy

Chief Minister personally oversaw the rescue works, accelerated the operations and distributed relief assistance to the affected people.

A review meeting, on the rescue and relief operations undertaken, on account of the heavy rains in the Districts of The Nilgiris and Coimbatore, was held on 14.08.2019. I presided over the meeting. The following orders were issued after the review.

- ✶ 6,910 persons from the affected areas were rescued and lodged in 67 relief centres. Regular supply of food for them, should be ensured. Milk powder should be given to children and mothers. Adequate medical facilities should be provided to the aged and sick persons.
- ✶ Insecticides and chlorine should be sprayed in the affected areas to contain infectious diseases.
- ✶ Twenty-three permanent and 13 mobile medical camps have been set up in the affected areas and in the relief centres and so far 9,333 persons have benefited. I have directed the setting up of more such medical camps as per need.
- ✶ On my direction, Rs.10 lakh each was distributed to the families of 5 persons who had died, considering their family conditions. Likewise, I have directed the distribution of Rs.10 lakh to the family of Thiru. Sajeev (30), son of Thiru. Velayudham of Kattukuppai, Nanjanadu.
- ✶ I have also ordered adequate relief to the 11 persons who were injured and compensation for the loss of 2 heads of cattle, from the State Disaster Relief Fund.
- ✶ I have instructed a payment of Rs.4,100 each as relief, to owners of 1,225 partly damaged huts and Rs.5,000 each to owners of 296 fully damaged huts; construction of new houses under the Green House scheme has also been ordered for the fully damaged huts.
- ✶ I have directed that enumeration of damaged horticulture crops should be completed by 16.08.2019 and proposals for distribution of input subsidy to farmers should be sent to Government.
- ✶ Steps are taken on a war footing for full restoration of 153.34 k.m. long damaged roads that have been temporarily repaired and for repairing 185 damaged culverts, 115 electric poles, 3.5 k.m. long electric wires and 6 transformers.

Of the 55 places where landslides occurred, 33 places have been fully restored and traffic has been resumed. In the 24 roads that have been repaired to enable one-way traffic, speedy steps are being undertaken to restore two-way traffic.

I have directed the concerned Departments to take steps to forward to the Central Government, proposals connected with fund requirements for permanent restoration of all the damaged infrastructure.

I have also ordered disbursal of Rs.30 crore from the State Disaster Relief Fund to The Nilgiris District for immediate relief.

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches Water Mission with the vow not to waste even one drop

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** after inaugurating the works of Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Management on 07.08.2019 (*English Translation*)

I bow to Hon'ble Amma.

I am extremely happy to participate in the inauguration of the works of Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Management. At the outset, I extend my warm welcome to all those who have come here to participate in the function.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there is no perennial river in the State. All rivers depend on monsoon rains. Since time immemorial, river water is stored in lakes, tanks, ponds and *ooranis* and then that is utilized for drinking and irrigation purposes. That was the engineering infrastructure maintained by our ancestors. Due to this, the ground water table rose. Villages around the river received irrigation facilities. Structures were formed to take surplus water from one tank to another. Grand Anaicut was constructed to utilize Cauvery water for irrigation. In a similar manner, water bodies were formed throughout the State and the State excelled in water management.

Water management is essential for economic development. Water scarcity occurs whenever the monsoon fails. So it is necessary to find a permanent solution to tide over water scarcity. Every drop of rain water should be saved and used water recycled for better utilization.

For this, encroachments in all water bodies, including lakes, tanks, ponds, *kanmais* and *ooranis* and in supply canals should be removed and the water bodies should be desilted. In all Villages, new tanks, ponds and water catchment areas should be developed. Renovation of canals and formation of farm ponds should be encouraged.

Realizing the importance of water management, Hon'ble Amma made Rain Water Harvesting a People's Movement. The present Government, following the path of Amma, has started a people's movement known as the Water Resources Conservation and Management, as announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110, taking forward rain water harvesting, protecting water bodies by increasing their capacity, ensuring the optimum utilization of water for agriculture, and re-using sewage and used water through recycling. I am proud to launch the Mission now.

I am happy to announce that in this Mission, water will be saved by adopting the following techniques. Rain water will be saved by protecting water bodies and increasing their capacity. Ground water will be recharged and drinking water supply stabilized. Utilization capacity of water usage in agriculture and other allied fields will be increased and rain water harvesting for rain-fed agriculture will be implemented. The demand for fresh water will be reduced by utilizing recycled water and vigorously adopting the reuse and recycling of water. The eco-system of rivers, lakes, important coastal areas, water bodies in estuaries, streams and marshlands, will be redeemed.

This scheme will be implemented with the District Collector as the Chairman and with the active support of officials of various Departments. Water Conservation Boards will be set up in every ward in urban areas, and in Panchayat Unions and Villages. This mission ensures involvement of more number of women.

I am happy to announce that to make the Water Conservation Management a people's movement, a vigorous campaign will be organized for a month, starting from today. Hon'ble Ministers, MLAs and representatives of local bodies, will actively participate in this campaign. District Collectors will actively co-ordinate the activities of the movement. This will be a people's movement with the active participation of private enterprises, public, non-Governmental organizations, private and public

charitable organizations and social activists. Through this movement, all the water bodies will be renovated before the onset of monsoon to conserve more rain water.

Under the '*Kudimaramathu*' Scheme this year, administrative sanction has been given for Rs. 499.99 crore for carrying out 1,829 works and as a part of advance measures for South West and North East Monsoons Rs.61.38 crore has been sanctioned for renovating canals along the River Cauvery in the Delta Districts. All these works will also be undertaken by the Mission

This Mission, through the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, will also take up the deepening of small irrigation tanks, ponds and *ooranis*. Apart from Rs.750 crore allotted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, another Rs. 500 crore will be sanctioned by the Tamil Government as a special allotment. With the total allotment of Rs. 1,250 crore, these works will be successfully implemented.

Of the 210 water bodies in Chennai Corporation, 53 bodies are being renovated from Corporation's funds and Social Responsibility Fund of private enterprises. Another 114 water bodies will be taken up renovation by the mission at a cost of Rs.100 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Management will take up linking of rivers flowing within the State and the Godavari- Cauvery link as a long-term plan.

Apart from this, reducing the dependence on fresh water by bringing sewerage water into use through recycling, redeeming of rivers, tanks, important sea shores, river mouths, small streams and marsh lands, intensification of drip irrigation scheme, and formation of farm ponds are other major schemes being implemented by Hon'ble Amma's Government.

Through this mission, this Government will implement '*Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery*', a new scheme to cleanse the River Cauvery, similar to the cleaning of Ganga River. It will be carried out in a phased manner by Amma's Government with funding from the Indian Government and international agencies. I have asked officials to file a detailed report to the Centre before September on how to prevent sewerage and industrial effluents flowing into the Cauvery and to bring the river to its pristine purity up to the sea mouth. In a similar manner, Hon'ble Amma's Government will take necessary steps

to prevent pollution of the Bhavani, Vaigai, Amaravathi and Thamirabarani rivers.

My earnest appeal to people is that taking into consideration the requirement of water for the growing population, everyone should think of the need for saving water so that water sources are there for the future generations. I appeal to the general public, the youth, private enterprises, non-governmental organizations and industrial concerns to involve themselves actively in this movement for protecting the overall interests of the State.

Today we are launching one of the best schemes. The main aim of the scheme is to conserve water for utilization during drought. The State witnessed the worst drought in 40 years. The State has not received the normal quota of rains during monsoons. Due to this the ground water level has been depleting. To recharge the ground water, to solve the drinking water problem and to enable farmers to use the ground water for irrigation, the '*Kudimaramathu*' Scheme is being implemented in a big way. Through this, tanks under the control of PWD and Panchayat Unions, are deepened by de-silting, the banks are strengthened, sluices are repaired, supply channels and excess water flow channels are cleaned and renovated. Hon'ble Amma's Government conceived the wonderful scheme and it is being implemented so that the tanks in the State can fill up to their capacity.

For the last 20 to 30 years, tanks had not been de-silted and it was this Amma's Government that took up the scheme and is implementing it in an excellent manner. While de-silting, the tanks are not only deepened but the removed sand is also used as good manure by the farmers.

The scheme has been implemented with a view to conserve every drop of rain water. To rejuvenate the scheme, this Government of Hon'ble Amma inaugurated the '*Kudimaramathu*' Scheme on an experimental basis during 2017-2018. In the first phase, 1,519 tanks were taken up and in the second phase it was extended to 1,511 tanks during 2018-2019, with an allotment of Rs.328 crore. I am happy to announce that, in the current financial year (2019-2020), 1,829 tanks have been selected for de-silting at a cost of Rs.499 crore. Just like people need water to drink, for agriculture too water is a necessity. As it is the duty of the Government not to waste even one drop of water, we have conceived the scheme and are

implementing it. On behalf of the PWD and through '*Kudimaramathu*' Scheme, we have involved the farmers, farmers associations and *ayacutdars* in implementing the scheme and handed over money to them for de-silting, renovating, strengthening the banks, repairing the sluices, cleaning the supply and excess water outflow channels.

During drought-affected periods, Tamil Nadu received the highest compensation for crop loss from the insurance companies and Hon'ble Amma's Government paid Rs.3,400 crore as compensation to the farmers.

In the interest of farmers, the Government is giving subsidy for purchase of agriculture equipment such as tractors and for inputs and seeds. Amma's Government stands with farmers so that they can excel in their work.

For the farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce, this Amma's Government has built markets in every District so that farmers can earn revenue by selling their produce.

Now farmers are cultivating flowers in large acres of land. Unfortunately, they are not getting better prices for the flowers. For the farmers to get better prices for their flowers, I announced in the Assembly that an International Flower Auction Centre would be formed. The work has already started. We have also planned to set up a big Food Market at a cost of Rs. 2,000 crore near Chennai.

To encourage rearing of animals as a subsidiary profession by farmers, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi, during her regime, conceived of the White Revolution. Towards this end, Hon'ble Amma launched distribution of cows, goats and poultry to women beneficiaries at no cost. This scheme is continued by the present Amma's Government also. To further fine tune the scheme, Amma's Government is to set up Asia's biggest Livestock Park on a 1,000 acre area near Chennai, at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. The Park will have an Animal Husbandry Research Centre, Veterinary Medical College, Centre for breeding hybrid cows, as well as fish, goats and poultry rearing centres.

The present Amma's Government is the only Government that takes all the schemes of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to all people,

whether they are from urban areas or villages, without wasting. Hon'ble Amma announced distribution of two wheelers on subsidy for working women. The present Government is implementing the scheme by giving a subsidy of Rs.25,000 per vehicle. For unmarried women belonging to poor families, the Government is giving 8 gm. gold for '*mangalyam*', which was earlier 4 gm. Thereby the Government has brought light in their lives. This Amma's Government is giving as grant, Rs.50,000 for graduate women and Rs. 25,000 for women who have completed Plus two. Nowhere in India, except in Tamil Nadu, do poor and downtrodden people dwelling in huts in Villages, live as peacefully as they do in our State.

For the welfare of child in the womb, cash assistance is given to pregnant women. It has been successively increased from Rs.6,000 to Rs.12,000 and Rs.18,000. For proper development of child in the womb, Amma's Government is distributing Amma Maternity Sanjeevi nutrition kit to the pregnant women. Immediately after the birth of the child, Amma's Government gives a Amma Baby Care Kit containing 16 articles, which are useful for the upkeep of the baby.

The Government has opened many Primary Health Centres and Upgraded PHCs. We have provided facilities whereby rural people can get medical assistance close to their places of residence. Apart from this, we have increased the ceiling for assistance per family under Medical Insurance Scheme, from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.5 lakh. I am happy to inform that these are all great boons to the poor people in the State.

Today we have provided better road facilities and constructed many check dams. For constructing check dams, we have allotted Rs.1,000 crore for three years. Now, we have prepared a scheme for construction of check dams at a cost of Rs.600 crore. Amma's Government is ready to construct check dams wherever necessary so that even a single drop of water is not wasted. To construct check dams across tanks and rivers, wherever necessary, the Government has appointed a team of retired Engineers that will tour all districts and select the places. This team will submit the selected places to the Government. Based on that report, check dams will be constructed across tanks and rivers.

This Amma's Government is implementing all the schemes conceived and brought out by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma during her period.

I would like to inform at this juncture that the Government will give Rs.2,000 to agricultural workers, weavers, building workers and labourers. I have Already started the work in the Secretariat. After completing the calculation of the number of workers in the State, the Government will give Rs. 2,000 per family of workers. I appeal to all workers in the State and to agricultural workers to give their full co-operation for successful implementation of the scheme.

We will protect water resources, we will develop all our resources, drive away drought and make Tamil Nadu a water surplus State.

I thank all those who worked hard in a short period of time for making this function a success. Once again I thank those who attended the function in large numbers.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

National Handloom Day - August 7

'Patronise innovative handloom products and bring prosperity to handloom weavers'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on National Handloom Day - 06.08.2019. (*English Translation*)

The Swadeshi Movement, an important episode in Indian history, was started on August 7th, 1905. By way of recalling that movement, August 7th is being observed as National Handloom Day every year from 2015, so as to encourage production of indigenous goods, and to honour the handloom weavers.

The Handloom industry is next to agriculture in providing employment opportunities in our economy. The Handloom sector in Tamil Nadu has a history of more than 1,000 years and an excellent tradition in handicraft. At present, Tamil Nadu has 2.51 lakh looms under 1,137 Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies.

To develop the handloom sector and bring prosperity in the lives of weavers, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes.

These include distribution of dhoti and saree at no cost for providing continuous work to handloom and power loom weavers, distribution of two pairs of school uniforms to students in Government and aided schools every year at no cost, 30 per cent discount on sale of handloom fabrics from September 15th to January 31st in connection with Perarignar Anna's birth anniversary, pension and family pension schemes to handloom weavers Chief Minister Solar Powered Green Houses distribution scheme for weavers, distribution of electricity at no cost to handloom and power loom weavers, Weavers Welfare Insurance Scheme, Tamil Nadu Co-operative Handloom Weavers Saving and Security scheme, scholarship scheme to heirs of weavers under Dr. M.G.R. Handloom Weavers Welfare Trust, Interest Subsidy scheme for Handloom Weavers, Award for State-level best weaver, and prizes to skilled handloom weavers.

Other welfare measures include 'Handloom Support Programme' to provide financial assistance for encouraging initiatives to make handloom weaving a profitable industry, increasing production through introduction of new technology, upgrading new design skills, marketing handloom fabrics, popularizing handloom fabrics and preserving traditional handloom weaving.

For improving the living standards of handloom weavers, I appeal to people to patronise in a big way the silk and cotton handloom varieties produced by them with the help of new technologies.

I extend my good wishes, in connection with National Handloom Day, to all handloom weavers and workers depending on this industry. I request them to make use of the schemes being implemented for them by the Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in a good manner and enrich their lives. ■

An Onam of happiness and harmony

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the occasion of Onam - 10.09.2019 (English Translation)

I am happy to convey my hearty greetings to all those who are joyously celebrating Onam, the much valued traditional festival of the Malayalam people.

To vanquish the pride of emperor Mahabali, Lord Vishnu took the avatar of a dwarf and sought from him three paces of land measured by his little feet. When Mahabali acceded to his request, he measured the wide earth and vast sky with two steps and placed the third step on the Emperor's head and sent him to the nether worlds.

Before being sent to the nether worlds, Mahabali entreated Lord Vishnu to allow him to visit his people once a year and was granted the wish. Malayalis celebrate the day of Emperor Mahabali's yearly return as the Onam festival.

Malayalis joyously celebrate the 10 days festival by decorating the front yard of their houses with colourful flower kolams, wearing new clothes, dining with family members and engaging themselves in dance, music and sports.

On this joyous day, I once again express my hearty greetings to Malayalam-speaking people with the wish that they should live happily and harmoniously eschewing differences of caste and creed. ■

Photo Miscellany of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami's visit to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Dubai to attract investments for Tamil Nadu

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the King's College Hospital in London, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Tamil Nadu Government and King's College Hospital, to start a branch of the King's College Hospital in Tamil Nadu - 29.08.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** visited the IP Switch Smart Grid Factory in the Suffolk city of England, to assess the viability of Tamil Nadu adopting the strategies and technologies of easily transferring solar and wind energy to the main grid - 30.08.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** visited the world famous KEW Botanic Gardens in London - 01.09.2019

Hertfortshire University researcher Dr. Chamundeeswari Kuppuswamy showed the letter of having conducted research in Tamil Nadu Land Administration and Revenue Department, to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** and received his good wishes.

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Investors Meet held in New York in the United States of America on 03.09.2019, 16 firms signed Memoranda of Understanding committing an investment of Rs.2,780 crore.

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** 19 firms signed Memoranda of Understanding to invest Rs. 2,300 crore for starting industries in Tamil Nadu at the Investors Meet at the City of San Jose, United States of America - 04.09.2019

Top executives of business concerns and entrepreneurs in San Francisco in the United States of America, called on Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** and expressed their eagerness to start industries in Tamil Nadu - 05.09.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** visited the Bloom Energy plant in San Francisco, which specializes in technologies to generate clean energy and presented its founder and CEO with a memento on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government - 05.09.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** being briefed about renewable energy technologies and their challenges on his visit to the Bloom Energy plant in San Francisco in the United States of America - 05.09.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** visited the Tesla Electric Car unit in San Francisco in the United States of America - 05.09.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** visited the Tesla Electric Car unit in San Francisco in the United States of America and gave mementos to its executives on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government - 05.09.2019

Anaheim City Mayor and Businessman Harry S.Sidhu extended a warm welcome to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** when he visited Anaheim City outside Los Angeles in Southern California in the United States of America - 06.09.2019

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** visited the waste-water treatment plant at Anaheim City in the Los Angeles metropolitan area in the United States of America - 06.09.2019

Top executives of various firms in Dubai met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** and expressed their desire to start enterprises in Tamil Nadu - 09.09.2019

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** at the investors' meet held at Dubai jointly by the 'Business Leaders Forum' that comes under the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates, and the Indian Consulate, Memoranda of Understanding were signed with various firms for starting businesses in Tamil Nadu - 09.09.2019

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** at the investors' meet held at Dubai jointly by the 'Business Leaders Forum' that comes under the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates, and the Indian Consulate, Memoranda of Understanding were signed with various firms for starting businesses in Tamil Nadu - 09.09.2019

Three State Transport Corporations win nine National Efficiency Awards

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami offered his good wishes to the Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru. M.R. Vijayabhaskar at the Secretariat on 11.07.2019 when the latter showed him the 9 awards presented to the State Express Transport Corporation (Tamil Nadu) Ltd., (SETC) and Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation's Salem and Kumbakonam units by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTU) for their efficiency in different fields. The awards for the year 2017-2018 were presented at a function held at New Delhi on March 26, 2019. At the Secretariat event, Dr.J. Radhakrishnan I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Transport Department was present.

The Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTU) was formed on August 13, 1965 to bring together all the State Road Transport undertakings on a common platform after examining their resources and performance. ASRTU, functioning under the Central Government's Department of Road Transport and Highways, has 62 State Transport undertakings as its members.

Every year awards are presented to encourage the State Road Transport undertakings, after scrutinizing their performance and efficiency. From 2013 onwards, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations have been winning more and more awards continuously and establishing a record.

At the recent awards presenting function held by the ASRTU at New Delhi, the Managing Directors of the State Transport Corporations concerned, received the 9 awards given to the 3 Tamil Nadu Undertakings for the year 2017-2018.

DETAILS OF THE AWARDS GIVEN:

The State Express Transport Corporation (Tamil Nadu) Ltd., was presented a shield for putting in the highest performance in Vehicle Productivity-Mofussil Services (529.35 KM).

The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Salem) Ltd., won a shield for coming second in highest performance in vehicle productivity-mofussil (483.76 k.m.), a shield for coming first in recording highest kilometre run per litre of diesel (5.48 KMPL) in mofussil services (1,001 – 4,000 buses), a shield for coming second in maximum improvement in kilometre per litre - mofussil services (from 5.42 to 5.48), and a certificate for coming first in highest tyre performance for the fifth continuous year (3.27).

The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam) Ltd., won a shield for occupying the first place in highest tyre performance (3.77), a shield for coming first (39.77 CPKM) in minimum operational cost award (without the element of tax) in mofussil services (1,001 upwards 4,000 buses), a shield for coming second in maximum improvement in KMPL – mofussil services (from 5.48 to 5.51) and a certificate for coming first continuously for the fifth time in highest kilometre per litre (1,001 – 4,000 buses) 5.51 KMPL.

Hon'ble Chief Minister to Kalaimamani award winners

'Instil patriotism, love of Tamil'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the '*Kalaimamani*' awards presentation function organized by the *Iyal, Isai Nataka Mandram* on 13.8.2019. *(English Translation)*

I bow to Goddess Hon'ble Amma.

I am extremely happy to participate in the function to present the Tamil Nadu Government's '*Kalaimamani*' awards to eminent artists in different fields like *Iyal, Isai* and *Natakam* (literature, music and drama). At the outset, I offer my grateful respects to all the participants in the function.

Kaviarasu Kannadasan said: "*Engal Dravida Ponnaade/Kalai vaazhum thennaade/ iyal isai natakam, aram porul inbam/ iyangum senthamizh naade.*" ('Our golden Dravidian country, the southern peninsula that nurtures the arts, the magnificent Tamil Nadu where literature, music, drama, rectitude, wealth and happiness flourish'). True to these lines of the poet, the kings who ruled Tamil Nadu – the Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas and many others – worked hard to foster the Tamil language, the arts, literature and culture. They established three *Sangams* (at different periods of time) at Madurai and paved the way for the publication of many Tamil books. Many Tamil works were

written and compiled and came to be known later as *Sangam* Tamil works and added glory to the Tamil language. Dramatic Tamil developed well and many stage plays were conducted for recreation as also to explain patriotism and social values. Besides, Tamil Nadu shines as the cradle of many arts like music, folk arts and dance.

Tamil Kings of those days patronized and monetarily helped the artists who rendered dedicated service in the literary, music and drama fields. For example, the king *Vallal Athiyaman*, presented with utmost pleasure a rare gooseberry to Avvaiyar with the view that the Tamil language should flourish and live for a very long time.

There cannot be two opinions that among the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, were the ones who protected artists' welfare. It will not be an exaggeration to say that our Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Amma in their rule of Tamil Nadu, announced many welfare schemes for artists and encouraged them with the conviction that those who keep the people happy deserve a happy life always.

Art and culture are intertwined. In December 1991, I am happy to recall, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma set up an exclusive Department for Art and Culture for the noble purpose of safeguarding culture through Tamil Nadu's traditional arts, to carry forward to the younger generation the arts of music, drama, dance, painting and sculpture through the educational institutions for music and fine arts and to integrate and implement the various schemes for the development of artists engaged in these arts.

Under this Department the Tamil Nadu *Iyal, Isai, Nataka Mandram* is functioning in an excellent manner adding glory to the three main branches of the Tamil language – literature, music and drama. Allotting enough funds, the Tamil Nadu government, through the *Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram,* is taking up works like fostering ancient arts, encouraging artists engaged in those arts, documenting and

retrieving the decaying art forms, rejuvenating drama and dance dramas and spreading Tamil Nadu's traditional arts to other states and at the global level.

I wish to mention the important schemes implemented by the Tamil Nadu Iyal, Isai Nataka Mandram for encouraging arts and artists.

- ✶ Five hundred indigent artists are given a monthly assistance of Rs.2,000 each; under this scheme, 14,063 artists are given monthly financial assistance.
- ✶ Under the Inter-State Cultural Exchange Programme, so far 63 Tamil Nadu troupes have gone to other states to perform.
- ✶ So far, 1,972 young artists have benefited from the scheme to provide support and encouragement to talented young artists through opportunities to stage art events under the aegis of various art establishments.
- ✶ Under the scheme of financial assistance to the best Tamil plays and dance-drama troupes that depict Tamil art and Tamil culture, 47 stage plays and 35 dance-drama troupes have been given financial assistance;
- ✶ Under the scheme of financial assistance for publication of rare books on the arts, assistance has been given for the publication of 109 books.
- ✶ Art functions are conducted to benefit *Iyal, Isai, Nataka* artistes.

Also, this great *Mandram* is presenting the prestigious '*Kalaimamani*' award every year in recognition of the

contribution of artists who have served the arts significantly and selflessly at the state-level and shine like gems in the crown of the Muse.

At present, '*Kalaimamani*' award is given to artists in the disciplines of *Iyal, isai*, dance, drama, cinema, folk arts, painting, sculpture, mimicry and other sub-divisions under such heads. Those who don't fall under the above heads, like Art promoters, make up artists and music instrument makers, are also given '*Kalaimamani*' awards. So far, 1,594 artists have been honoured with '*Kalaimamani*' awards.

I am extremely happy to distribute '*Kalaimamani*' awards to 201 eminent artists in the fields of literature, music, drama, dance, cinema, TV serial, folk arts and the like in today's function. Awards are also to be presented after identifying eminent artists in 72 types of arts.

Also, a purse of Rs.25,000 each for 8 senior artists in consideration of their family condition, shield for 3 NGOs who have worked for the development of arts, a rolling shield for a drama troupe functioning in an outstanding manner and awards in the name of Bharathiyar, M.S.Subbulakshmi and Balasaraswathi carrying a cash of Rs.One lakh and a citation to 9 artists in the disciplines of literature, music and dance respectively, are to be given in today's function. Awards are also to be given to senior artists for the services they have rendered and to youth, for encouraging them in their work.

Artists played a great role in making successful the agitations launched for the freedom of the country and for safeguarding our mother language. Songs rendered by artists on the streets with musical instruments and stage dialogues were the basis for instilling feelings of patriotism and pride for one's language.

Artists should serve the cause of art and contribute in the best possible way realizing that they live for the country and that our art forms are for the enjoyment of the people. In tune with the wise saying that what one has learnt is just miniscule but what remains to be learnt is mammoth, artists should not stagnate but understand the changes that take place in the field of art at the global level, adopt the changes, refurbish their talents periodically and gain expertise in their chosen field. The expertise so gained should be used properly to add lustre to their own art form. At this juncture, I am reminded of a story.

A saint under a tree, was stitching his torn dhoti. Lord Siva and Parvathi Devi saw the saint as they passed by. 'Let us confer some boon on the saint', suggested Parvathi Devi to Lord Siva. 'The saint is past the stage of seeking boons; let us proceed", said Lord Siva. As Parvathi Devi persisted, both went to the saint and greeted him. On seeing the Divine Couple, the saint welcomed them, showed the usual courtesies and proceeded with his work of mending the dhoti. On seeing this, Lord Siva and Parvathi Devi said: "We shall take leave of you". "Go ahead happily; my salutations", the saint replied and got immersed in his work.

"When we appear before a person, we don't leave without conferring a boon; so ask some boon and we will give it", said Lord Siva. "Your darshan is enough for me. I don't need any boon", the saint replied and continued his work. As Lord Siva and Parvathi Devi insisted on giving a boon, the saint said: " When I stitch the cloth, the thread should follow the needle; that is enough". "That is what is happening as a matter of course; why we should give a boon for

it", asked Parvathi Devi. "That is precisely what I am also asking for. If I conduct myself without swerving from the righteous path, the fruits of the actions will come to me on their own. Why should you give me a boon in between", asked the saint. On hearing this explanation, Lord Siva and Parvathi Devi laughed and happily went their way.

Like the saint in this story, I am happy to say that this '*Kalaimamani*' award has come in search of you as you have all involved yourselves totally in your fields of art. I congratulate and greet all the artists who have received the '*Kalaimamani*' title today. I affectionately request you to improve your skills further and further and serve your chosen field of art in the best way.

Artists who have assembled here have already placed some demands. While I was distributing the '*Kalaimamani*' awards here, they affectionately requested me to implement those demands. Conceding their request, I wish to make the following announcements of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government.

1. The gold medallion of '*Kalaimamani*' award will hereafter weigh 5 sovereigns instead of 3 sovereigns as it does at present.
2. Three Special '*Kalaimamani*' awards in the name of Hon'ble Amma' each weighing 5 sovereigns, will hereafter be presented every year as special awards.
3. I am happy to inform that the monthly assistance of Rs.2,000 to indigent senior artists will be increased to Rs.3,000.

My appreciation and thanks to all the good hearts who have made excellent arrangements for this function.

This Government is the people's Government, it is the farmers' Government; farmers' welfare is its prime concern

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** after declaring open the Tharamangalam bypass road and flyovers in Sankagiri Assembly Constituency, Salem on 21.07.2019. (*English Translation*)

Paying my obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

By way of fulfilling the long-standing collective demand of the people of Tharamangalam and its suburbs, Members of the Legislative Assembly, former local bodies representatives and co-operative society administrators, I declare open today, with your blessings, the Tharamangalam bypass road and two road bridges.

My humble greetings to all who are gracing this excellent function with their presence.

Road infrastructure is a very important factor for a country's growth. The state that has the best road infrastructure will excel in industrial growth also. Tamil Nadu has the best road infrastructure in the whole of India. I am proud to state that from the days of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's chiefministership till date, Tamil Nadu remains the premier State in the entire Country in road maintenance. Tamil Nadu has earned the name that it has the best road infrastructure.

Today, I have declared open, with the blessings of the people and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Tharamangalam 3.11 k.m. long bypass road, constructed by the Highways Department (Construction and Maintenance) at Tharamangalam in the

Sankagiri Assembly constituency, at a cost of Rs.24.10 crore. This bypass road starts at Periapatti at the 9/240 KM point on Omalur-Sankagiri-Tiruchengode-Paramathi road and ends at Thottampatti at the 15/300 KM point. Two other road bridges – one on Vadakarai canal Narimedu road (Rs.2.50 crore), Konasamudram Panchayat, Konganapuram Panchayat Union and another on Tholasampatti road (Rs.2.70 crore), Olaipatti Panchayat, Mecheri Panchayat Union, constructed at a total cost of Rs.5.20 crore by the Salem Highways Department (NABARD and Bypass Road Division), were also declared open.

Besides, I am happy to inform that a railway overbridge (Rs.18.44 crore) at Tholasampatti, to reduce traffic congestion on either side of the level crossings from Omalur to Mettur, a railway overbridge (Rs.15.94 crore) at Muthanayakkanpatti, a flyover (Rs.19.34 crore) near JSW industrial establishment, a railway overbridge across the railway level-crossing at Punchandiyur will be constructed soon and put to people's use.

Under the Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project, the Tiruchengode-Omalur road via Sankagiri, Konganapuram and Tharamangalam, will be widened as a 4-lane traffic road up to Omalur to avert traffic congestion. Amma's Government is planning to widen the 14.6 km long Omalur - Mecheri road and will implement it for the development of the area. I am happy to inform that Amma's Government proposes to widen the Bhavani - Mettur and Mettur - Thoppur roads for smooth flow of traffic.

As land acquisition creates problems, roads such as these can be laid and accidents, precious loss of life and travel time can be reduced, only if lands are given voluntarily. Our aim is to reduce traffic congestion.

We are implementing all the schemes formulated during Idaya Deivam Amma's days. From the time I assumed ministerial responsibility of the Highways Department, till date we have streamlined many roads, not merely in Salem District but throughout Tamil Nadu.

The Central Government proposes to set up a very big factory for the production of components for Indian Army equipment in a part of Salem Steel Plant complex. This will provide employment opportunities directly and indirectly to thousands of people. This is a boon. This too is brought about by Amma's Government.

For drinking water supply, we take many steps through the Combined Water Supply Scheme. Water management has assumed importance now. To make available water for irrigation and drinking water to farmers and the general public, we are implementing the '*kudimaramathu'* scheme with farmers' participation by assigning lakes to farmers associations. The farmers associations too should extend their help and make this scheme a success. As lakes and tanks are dredged through this scheme, farmers can collect the enriched dredged silt at no cost and apply it as natural manure to their lands. Farmers can take the silt in the Mettur dam free of cost. Amma's Government is liberal in permitting such things.

Farmers in Omalur cultivate flower plants in a major way and sell the flowers in Bengaluru. But they don't get the right price for their produce. Hence, I made an announcement yesterday that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government would set up an International Auction Centre for flowers at Hosur. Farmers can keep their flowers safely in the refrigerated godowns there, during the periods when they do not get adequate prices for their goods. Retiring rooms will be constructed there for farmers and global traders.

A big building with online marketing and refrigerated godown facilities will be constructed on the Omalur-Mecheri road for farmers to get the appropriate prices for their vegetable and fruit produce. During periods of price slump, they can keep their produce in the godowns safely. No rent will be collected. ATM facility too will be provided.

We propose to set up a Food Park near Chennai at a cost of Rs.2,000 crore. Farmers will get the due prices for their vegetables and fruits at the Food Park. We have taken steps to supply drip irrigation equipment to drought-hit agricultural lands. The equipment is given at 100 per cent subsidy to farmers owning one acre land; the subsidy is 75 per cent for those owning more than one acre. Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that farmer's income should be doubled. Amma's Government is one that protects the welfare of farmers.

We have given many concessions to handloom weavers for industrial, agricultural and textile industry development. We have increased the wages for the production of dhotis and sarees to be worn for Pongal festival. Amma's Government is also taking steps to create more employment opportunities through facilitation of new industries.

This Government is the people's Government, it is the farmers' Government; farmers welfare is its prime concern. Pointing out that Amma's Government reflects people's aspirations, I request you all to support the Government and help in its schemes reaching the people directly. I thank all the good-hearted people for their enthusiastic participation in large numbers in this function amidst their diverse activities. I also thank media friends.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's Krishna Jayanthi Greetings

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the occasion of Sri Krishna Jayanthi - 22.08.2019. *(English Translation)*

I extend my happy and warm greetings to all people celebrating Sri Krishna Jayanthi, which marks the incarnation of Lord Sri Krishna, who enunciated the principles of life through the Bhagavad Gita, the book of wisdom.

"To protect good people, destroy evil doers and to establish dharma, I am born in every Yugam", said Lord Krishna, on whose incarnation day people celebrate Sri Krishna Jayanthi by drawing Rangoli Kolams in their houses, offering fruits, sweets and savouries to God, besides imprinting flour-soaked child steps in the house, signifying that Lord Krishna Himself has come to their houses.

On this day when Lord Krishna is born, let Love, Peace, and Happiness grow everywhere and may all people get all benefits and resources. I once again offer my heartfelt greetings to people on the occasion of Sri Krishna Jayanthi.

Eco-restoration Schemes for Adyar and Cooum rivers at an estimate of Rs.2,371 crore

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 11.07.2019. *(English Translation)*

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. Eco-restoration schemes for Adyar and Cooum rivers are at present being carried out by the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust. The Trust and Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board have prepared a detailed project report to be implemented between 2019 to 2023. It is estimated the cost of the project will be Rs.2,371 crore and I wish to state that the scheme will be executed.

The scheme envisages arresting sewage flow into the Cooum and Adyar rivers, the Buckingham canal and connecting streams, by providing interceptions and diversions, setting up sewerage treatment plants and pumping stations, and strengthening and restoring the existing sewerage infrastructure.

2. While drinking water needs continue to rise due to factors like rapid urbanization and industrialization, failure of monsoon rains due to many reasons including climate change depletes water resources. Even while efficiently tackling this situation, Hon'ble

Amma's Government will design an integrated policy, spelling out the steps to be taken, inclusive of averting pollution of water bodies, using treated water in factories and for other day-to-day activities and setting up of a pipe grid for re-cycled water.

3. Treating and re-cycling sewage water are part of the 'Vision 2023' document of Hon'ble Amma. For its implementation and for improving the ground water table and finding permanent solutions to increase water supply sources, Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board will prepare a report for treating 260 million litres of sewage water at third stage purification and letting it, for re-cycling, into the water bodies in Chennai and surrounding places.

4. Likewise, to prevent sewage water mixing into water bodies in the Municipal Corporations of Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem and Tiruchirapalli, and to explore the possibility of using treated sewage water in factories and for re-charging ground water through re-cycling, appropriate surveys will be undertaken and a detailed project report will be prepared.

5. Coimbatore Municipal Corporation is the second largest in Tamil Nadu. To avert the ever increasing traffic congestion there, Hon'ble Amma had announced that an integrated modern bus-stand would be set up in Coimbatore. I wish to state, a bus-stand will be set up on 61.62 acres of land at Vellalore at a cost of Rs.178.26 crore and will be brought into operation in the current financial year. Fund requirements will be met through Government subsidy and from infrastructure financial institutions.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND NUTRITIOUS MEALS SCHEME

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. The scheme of distribution of two sets of uniforms at no cost to pre-school learning children in *Anganwadis*, is being implemented in 10 Districts from 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Because of the scheme, enrolment of children has increased. It will be extended to 7 more Districts – Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur and Virudhunagar at a cost of Rs.6.51 crore.

2. Under the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme, 1,133 *Anganwadi* Centres, functioning from Government or own buildings, will be repaired in the current year at a total cost of Rs.22.66 crore at the rate of Rs.2 lakh for each building.

3. A maintenance assistance of Rs.11.55 crore will be distributed to 38,489 *anganwadis* at the rate of Rs.3,000 each for keeping the *anganwadis* clean, and meeting expenses towards purchase of articles needed immediately and towards undertaking minor repairs.

4. For purchase of furniture like chairs, steel almirah and water filter, Rs.10.59 crore will be given to 10,888 *anganwadi* Centres.

5. A medicine kit to treat minor sickness like fever, diarrhoea, injury and skin afflictions of mothers and children coming to the *anganwadi* Centres and a hygiene kit with handkerchief, comb, nail cutter and soap will be supplied to anganwadi centres in the 31 Districts in the current year at a cost of Rs.7.35 crore.

6. Kitchenware costing Rs.8.63 crore will be supplied in the current year to 5,970 Nutritious Meal Centres under the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme.

7. Vegetable gardens will be set up, in the first phase, in 9,915 Nutritious Meal Centres with the help of the Horticulture Department, at a cost of Rs.4.96 crore at the rate of Rs.5,000 for each Centre, to raise and use the vegetables.

8. For Annai Sathya Government Children's Home in Ramanathapuram Town, functioning now from a rented building, a new building on 1,614 sq. metres land, with all infrastructure facilities, will be constructed at a cost of Rs.5.28 crore. The Home provides shelter and care to 70 female children, affected by dire poverty and other harsh conditions of life.

9. Additional buildings, with all necessary infrastructure for the maintenance, safety and rehabilitation of 150 children in the Government Observation Home at Kellys, Chennai, will be constructed at a cost of Rs.4.53 crore.

10. At present, juveniles in some Government observation homes have to be escorted to the juvenile justice boards for every hearing. Already, Juvenile Justice Boards in 8 Districts have been linked with Government observation homes and depositions of juveniles are recorded through video conferencing. I wish to state that linking the remaining 6 observation homes in the Districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Salem, Cuddalore, Coimbatore and Madurai with the juvenile justice boards concerned in 16 Districts, for installing video conferencing facility will be executed through ELCOT Corporation at a cost of Rs.2.6 crore.

WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED.

1. A monthly dole of Rs.1,500 is given as maintenance assistance to persons affected with mental retardation, severe muscular dystrophy and leprosy. Along with the monthly dole, an additional assistance of Rs.1,000 will be given to 800 Differently Abled persons who are in need of 'high support', for keeping an assistant for helping them. This will be implemented at a cost of Rs.96 lakh from the current financial year.

2. Day Care Centres for the muscular dystrophy-affected are now functioning in 4 Districts with Government assistance. Such Centres with appliances for the affected, will be started in the current year in 10 more Districts at a cost of Rs.2.65 crore. This will benefit 250 persons suffering from muscular dystrophy.

3. For the economic development of Differently Abled persons, the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing many self-employment schemes with subsidy. A Government order was issued in 2018-2019 under which the Government would pay Aavin the advance amount of Rs.25,000 each for 100 differently-abled persons for setting up kiosks for the sale of Aavin products. As this scheme became popular among Differently Abled persons, I wish to state that Government will provide a subsidy of Rs.25,000 each towards procurement of Aavin products and also extend the scheme to 200 more differently abled persons. In the current year Rs. One crore will be allotted to 200 beneficiaries at the rate of Rs.50,000 each – Rs.25,000 towards advance amount and Rs.25,000 as subsidy for procurement of Aavin products. ■

Amma Youth Sports Scheme in 12,524 Panchayats and 528 Town Panchayats

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami under Rule 110,
in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, on 09.07.2019. *(English Translation)*

YOUTH WELFARE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Government will implement the 'Amma Youth Sports Scheme' in the current Financial Year in 12,524 Panchayats and 528 Town Panchayats, at a cost of Rs.64.35 crore, to improve the health and mental resources of rural youth, and to develop team spirit and sporting skills.

- Under the scheme, the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department will set up Amma Youth Sports Groups for men and women separately in all Village Panchayats and Town Panchayats.
- In every Village, three play grounds for either kabaddi, volleyball, cricket or football will be set up. In rural areas, the setting up of grounds will be taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and in Town Panchayats funds will be allotted under the general fund of the Town Panchayats.
- Youths will be given proper training to enable them to participate in tournaments at the Panchayat Union level, District level and State level, to be organized by the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.
- Winners of the tournaments will be given prizes gender-wise by the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.
- The State Government will sanction Rs.64.35 crore to supply sports goods throughout the year, set up open air exercise centres and give training to youth, conduct sports events and distribute prizes in Rural and Town Panchayat areas. The recurring expenses in this connection will be met from State revenues, through the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.

Medal winners of important Junior and Senior International and National sports events will be given high cash incentives. Similarly, differently-abled players who win medals in important International events will also be given high cash incentives.

The old headquarters building of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu near Nehru Park, Chennai, will be demolished

and a new building will be constructed at a cost of Rs.5 crore.

Twelve tenements for teachers will be constructed in the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University complex at a cost of Rs.3.5 crore.

PERSONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

A five storey building for the State Information Commission will be constructed in Saidapet in Chennai on a one acre ground, at a cost of Rs.27.29 crore. For this, a Government order has already been issued allotting one acre of land in Saidapet. The ground floor plus 5-storey building will have Enquiry Rooms, Rooms for Commissioners, Office Rooms, Waiting Hall for petitioners, Library, Seminar Hall, Parking area and basic facilities for employees and petitioners.

FISHERIES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced at the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. in Villupuram on 30.08.2019 that a viability study would be undertaken to set up a Fishing Harbour at Azhagan Kuppam in Villupuram District and on Alam Paraikuppam backwaters in the Buckingham Canal area in Kancheepuram District. As per the project report, fishing harbours will be set up in these two places at a cost of Rs.235 crore. These harbours will have facilities to park 250 mechanized boats and 1,100 outboard motor fibre boats and reduce congestion in the fishing harbours in Chennai and Cuddalore.

In the absence of a fishing harbour in fishing Villages in Arcottuthurai, Pushpavanam, Kodiyakkarai, Kodiyakkadu and Manian Theevu in Vedaranyam Division in Nagapattinam District, it was announced at the Centenary Birthday celebrations of Dr.M.G.R. on 20.09.2017 that a viability study would be conducted for setting up a fishing harbour at Arcottuthurai Village.

On the basis of the report, a fishing harbor will be set up at Arcottuthurai at a cost of Rs.150 crore to facilitate parking of 100 mechanised boats and 500 fibre glass boats. The fishing harbor will benefit 10,000 fishermen.

A sea erosion prevention wall was constructed on the southern side of the Vettar River in Nagore Fish Landing Centre in Nagapattinam District at a cost of Rs.11 crore. Over the years, due to heavy accumulation of alluvial soil at the river mouth, movement of boats was affected.

To prevent the accumulation soil at the river mouth, to ensure safety of fishermen and to operate boats freely, a sea erosion wall will be constructed at a cost of Rs.20 crore on the northern side of the Vettar. This will benefit over 200 deep sea mechanised boats utilizing the Nagore Fish Landing Centre and enable fishermen to go for fishing throughout the year.

To ensure the safety of fishermen and protect their fishing gadgets from sea erosion and to reduce sea erosion on the northern side of the sea shore, two walls with granite and concrete stones will be set up at a cost of Rs.30 crore at Periyathalai in Sathankulam Division in Thoothukudi District.

On an average 200 metric tonnes of fishes are being handled in Chennai Fishing Harbour

every day and over 30,000 people are involved in fishing and fish sales. Considering their welfare, a fish landing centre, fishing harbour and a sale centre will be set up at a cost of Rs.10 crore.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

To provide livelihood to women beneficiaries in rural areas, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma introduced in the year 2011-2012, distribution of milch cow, sheep and goats at no cost. The scheme is continuing in the current financial year also.

Following the success of the scheme, a brainchild of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 20 most backward Districts in Tamil Nadu have been selected in a joint survey by the Central and State Governments and poor women beneficiaries of the Districts will be given 10 goats or 10 sheep at 90 per cent subsidy and one male goat or sheep ram. Cost of procurement of goats, transport expenses, insurance, medicines and nutritious feed will be provided to the beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, six years after the distribution of goats and sheeps, a beneficiary will earn a revenue of at least Rs.1.50 lakh to Rs.2.70 lakh per annum.

Under the scheme, 3,645 beneficiaries in 81 panchayat unions at 45 goats per union will get direct benefits. People in the area after seeing the economic improvement of beneficiaries may also be enthused to adopt goat rearing activity. In the current year, the scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.24.06 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing an exclusive insurance scheme for animals of the economically backward farmers with the assistance of the Central Government and participation of beneficiaries. In the current financial year, totally 2.5 lakh animal units will be insured at a cost of Rs.22.46 crore. Under this scheme, beneficiaries under scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and those below the poverty line will get 70 per cent subsidy. Others will get 50 per cent subsidy. Hill tribes and those below the poverty line in hill areas will get 80 per cent subsidy while others will get 60 per cent subsidy.

At present, 28 Animal Disease Intelligence Units and 2 Poultry Disease Diagnostic Units are functioning in Tamil Nadu. A Central Animal Disease Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory of international standard will be started at Padappai in Kancheepuram District at an allotment of Rs.10 crore. This laboratory will have central disease research unit, research laboratory for veterinary products for exports and staying facility for veterinary doctors.

To provide the best veterinary treatment, it is necessary to have all facilities and good infrastructure. For this, new buildings with furniture for 100 upgraded veterinary hospitals, each at a cost of Rs.37 lakh and totalling Rs.37 crore, will be set up in the current financial year.

Dairy farmers prefer female calves instead of male calves to increase milk production. Taking this into account, a laboratory to separate frozen semen on gender basis, at a cost of Rs.47.50 crore, will be set up at the Frozen Semen production station, functioning in the Udhagamandalam District Veterinary Farm.

Amma's Government rushes to the succour of maize farmers hit by Fall Armyworm

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 04.07.2019.

(English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Maize plays an important role in our State's foodgrain production. Of maize cultivators, more than 80 per cent are small and micro farmers. Every year, maize is raised in about 3.5 lakh hectares - 80 per cent as rain fed in the Tamil months of *Aadi, Purattasi* and *Chithirai* and the rest through lift irrigation. Districts where maize is grown on a larger scale in Tamil Nadu are Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Namakkal, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Tiruchirappalli, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli and Theni.

On account of climate change, the American maize pest, Fall Armyworm, spread to African countries in 2016 and invaded our country too in 2018. Now the pest has spread to our neighbouring countries – Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and Cambodia - and has become a global threat, particularly to the maize crop in these countries.

In 2018, Fall Armyworm attacked the maize crops in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and our State. This worm's attack has the potential of devastating the maize crop.

As soon as this worm's attack was brought to my attention, I immediately ordered the Departments of Agriculture and Revenue to speedily enumerate the extent of damage. I directed the Agriculture Department to take action on a war footing in all the affected Districts and create awareness among farmers about the preventive measures. As there is no provision under the State Disaster Relief Fund norms to provide relief for these types of damages, I have instructed the inclusion of such crop losses also in the norms and provide relief.

As this Fall Armyworm attacked the crops in the State for the first time last year, 2,20,986 hectares of the cultivated 3.55 lakh hectares were affected though necessary crop protective measures were undertaken.

On the basis of the quick enumeration made by the Departments of Agriculture and Revenue and to wipe away the distress of 2,93,424 farmers in 17 Districts whose maize crop was damaged by the Fall Armyworm, Rs.186.25 crore relief will be given from the State Disaster Relief Fund, to affected farmers at the rate of Rs.13,500 per hectare for irrigated crop and Rs.7,400 per hectare for rain-fed crop.

I also wish to inform about my directive on continuation of different measures like summer tilling for preventing the attack by this worm, creating awareness among farmers and taking all steps to safeguard their welfare.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has always been one that removes the distress of farmers. The relief announced now, is a measure taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government to safeguard the welfare of small and micro farmers, affected by the loss of their maize crop due to this worm. Besides this relief, I have directed the Agriculture Department to get the compensation to the affected maize farmers who are already in the crop insurance scheme.

On this occasion, I affectionately request agriculturists who have not joined the crop insurance scheme to immediately come under the insurance umbrella so that they can protect themselves economically from Nature's furies in the future.

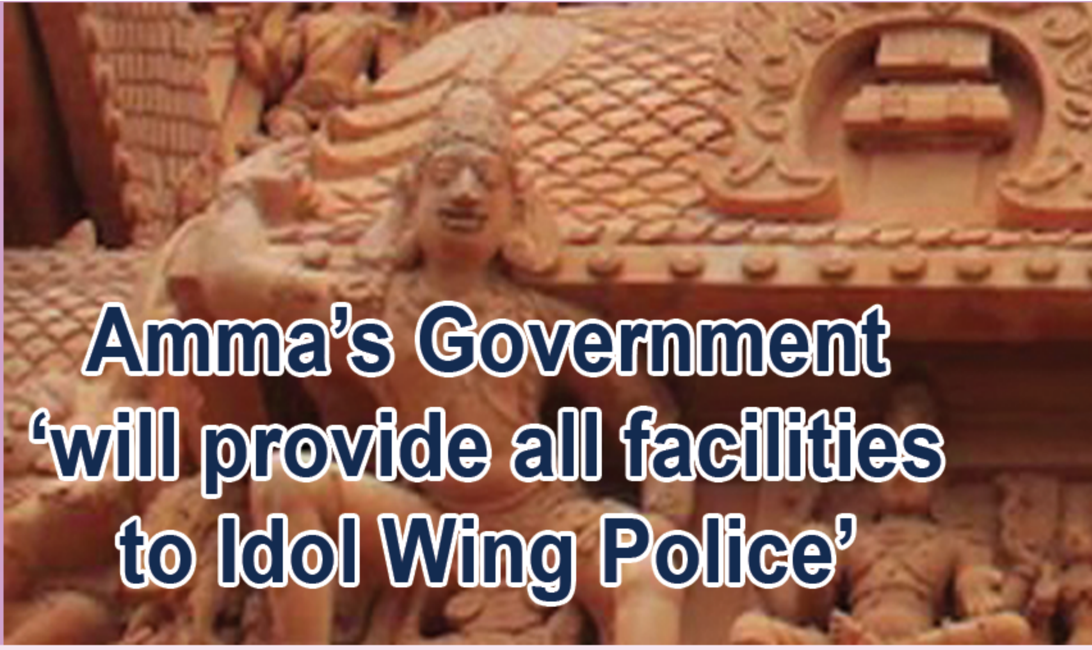
Proposals for building check dams to save excess rain water

Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly to a Call Attention Motion. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Proposals for constructing more check dams for preventing excess rain fall in the catchment areas of Parambikulam Aliyar in the Assembly constituencies of Pollachi, Valparai and Kinathukadavu, going waste into the sea and conserving the same, are under Government's examination.

Also, I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member through the Speaker of the House, that further action on the proposals for construction of check dams across Aliyar at 3 places up to Manakadavu for storing water, will be taken up after getting the approval of the Kerala Government.



Amma's Government 'will provide all facilities to Idol Wing Police'

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 19.07.2019, on the appointment of Thiru. Pon. Manickavel as Special Officer to investigate idol smuggling case.

(English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

It was only in *Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar* M.G.R.'s rule, that the idol wing in the Police Department was created in 1983. Even in those days, many steps were taken to protect invaluable idols. Not only that; Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma created a separate force – Temple Protection Force in the Police Department – to protect the bronze idols in the temples, jewels, proceeds from the hundis and other precious articles, drafted 1,000 Grade-II constables and 3,000 Ex-servicemen and posted them in many temples.

Thiru. Pon. Manickavel was serving in the Idol Wing Police as Deputy Inspector General of Police between 2012 and 2015 and IG of Police from 2015 till 30.11.2018. It is not a new posting for him. From 2012, he was serving the Wing. As he was in the Idol Wing for a long time, he was transferred to the Railways on the eve of his promotion. However, the Hon'ble Madras High Court appointed him as Special Officer in the Idol Wing itself from 01.12.2018 and till date, he has been serving there.

In the above said period, only 31 idol smuggling cases have been registered; he has filed charge sheet only in 13 cases. The remaining cases are under investigation. Besides, on the orders of Hon'ble High Court, the Director General of Police has transferred 333 cases connected with idol smuggling and registered in various Police Stations, to the Idol Wing. In the period of his service, he got convictions in Courts only in 7 cases. Between 2012 and 2018, culprits got acquitted in 6 cases. From 1983 to 10.02.2012, cases numbering 259 have been registered in the Idol Wing Police. On an average, 9 cases were registered in a year in these 28 years. But during his tenure, just 4 cases were registered.

After his appointment as Special Officer as per High Court's order and as per his request, 4 Additional Superintendents of Police, 7 Deputy Superintendents, 18 Inspectors, 45 Sub-Inspectors, 13 Special Sub-Inspectors

and 125 constables were additionally appointed and they were working on deputation.

As per the Supreme Court's order, the Government has issued G.O.s regarding provision of funds and other facilities to the Special Officer.

The sanctioned strength for the Idol Wing is one Deputy Superintendent of Police, 5 Inspectors, 3 Sub-inspectors and 20 constables. In accordance with the High Court's order, 204 Police Officers and Constables have been posted to the Idol Wing. This is 600 per cent more than the sanctioned strength and the percentage is still more in respect of officials in the grades Sub-Inspector to Additional Deputy Superintendents of Police.

Expenditure incurred on the Idol Wing is Rs.24.91 lakh in the 3 months 01.04.2017 to 21.07.2017. This expenditure has gone up to Rs.22.76 crore from 21.07.2017 to 30.11.2018. This includes salaries of those who have come on deputation and expenditure on fuel.

For the special team of the Idol Wing Police, 31 four wheelers, 29 two wheelers, 15 walkie talkies, 2 VHF equipment, 15 computers, 12 UPS, 12 printers (inclusive of colour printer), 5 video cameras, 10 still cameras and necessary furniture were provided even when the Special Officer was acting as Idol Wing's in-charge officer.

Moreover, for the stay of the Idol Wing Special Officer and his special teams, the Commando School at Tiruchirapalli and the old camp office of the Deputy Director General of Police at Thanjavur have been allotted. Two rooms and a big hall in the modernized control room at Kumbakonam and the office of the Special Officer for the Economic Offences wing at Guindy have also been handed over.

To help his day-to-day work at the special camp in Tiruchirapalli, a Superintendent, an Assistant and a Computer Assistant have been deployed. Hence, Government is providing all facilities as and when required to the Idol Wing Police.

It is to be noted that in his letter dated 19.03.2018, Thiru. Pon. Manickavel himself has stated that his Wing needs nothing.

I wish to inform this House that the Supreme Court has endorsed Tamil Nadu Government's appeal in part, in its order dated 12.04.2019 and has directed that Thiru. Abhay Kumar Singh I.P.S. will continue in his post as Additional Director in the Idol Wing, that the Special Officer Thiru. Pon.Manickavel should periodically brief the Additional Director General of Police about the progress of the cases and that Thiru. Pon.Manickavel should not make arrests on his own.

I also wish to inform that a contempt of Court case has been filed in the Madras High Court on behalf of the Special Officer, Thiru. Pon.Manickavel on 10.06.2019.

As the Hon'ble Member has stated, all facilities have been arranged for him. I wish to point out that he has been functioning in the Idol Wing Police from 2012. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member through You (Speaker) that Amma's Government will provide all facilities to the Idol Wing Police.

'Donate human organs and save lives'

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami's request to people
to come forward to make organ donation
as people's movement, on 12.08.2019. (*English Translation*)

It is well known that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma created a Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) on 12.12.2014, a pioneering set up for the whole of India. Consequently, Tamil Nadu has become the capital for Human Organ Transplantation. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, in his radio address, lauded Tamil Nadu for being in the forefront in organ donations.

By donating the organs of brain dead persons, 7 persons can be saved. So far, 7,568 organs have been received in Tamil Nadu from 1,297 donors. In organ transplantation, Tamil Nadu occupies the first place for the fourth time.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is creating awareness about organ donation through various events, conducted regularly. Awareness is created through school and college students among people and Tamil Nadu is making Human Organ Donation a people's movement.

For poor people, Human Organ Transplantation is done in Government and private hospitals free of cost. A maximum of Rs.25 lakh is given through the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme. Last year, the Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai successfully performed hand transplantation, a pioneering feat in the whole of India.

Every year, August 13th is observed as Human Organ Donation Day. Besides taking a pledge in unison on this day that **we will donate human organs and save lives**, we will make Tamil Nadu, the premier State in human organ donation.

Hon’ble Chief Minister distributes assistance worth Rs.39.59 crore to 22,294 beneficiaries

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after distributing welfare assistance at a Government function in Edappadi Assembly Constituency, Salem District on 21.07.2019. (English Translation)

Bowing before Goddess Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

My respects to all who are gracing this excellent function through their participation.

Besides distribution of laptops to school students, 11 scheme works completed at a total cost of Rs.1.91 crore were declared open today with the blessings of people and Amma, in the presence of Parliament and Assembly members. The completed schemes are 4 fair price shops, set up at a cost of Rs.34.25 lakh from MLA’s constituency development fund, a community hall (Rs.22.40 lakh), compound wall (Rs.19.50 lakh) to the newly constructed Katchupalli Government High School (all on behalf of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat), the Pakkanadu Primary Health Centre, constructed at a cost of Rs.60 lakh (Public Health and Family Welfare Department), a modern rest room (Rs.25 lakh) at the bus stand in Edappadi Municipality (Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department) and 3 numbers of blood purification equipment at Edappadi Government Hospital (Health and Rural Welfare). Also, the foundation was laid for the construction of a new Police Station at a cost of Rs.91.61 lakh for the Konganapuram Rural Police Station.

Conceding to the requests of Edappadi people made to me for modern equipment to the Government General Hospital at Edappadi, the Government has allotted Rs.4 crore towards this. Many works like setting up a blood bank, blood purification equipment, an operation theatre for bone fracture and an additional building with 50 beds and generator, will be implemented from this fund. Amma's Government has also allotted funds to equip the hospital for performing surgeries.

The Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department has supplied, under the solid waste management plan, 18 battery operated vehicles to Edappadi Municipality for collecting garbage. Through these vehicles, the garbage can be easily segregated.

The bus route to Dadapuram, Koranampatti and Moolapathai via Edappadi and Konganapuram is being extended to cover Meyyampalayam.

Presenting laptops to students is a magnificent scheme of Idaya Deivam Amma. Today, we have distributed laptops to 11th and 12th standard students. They cost thousands of crores of rupees. Hence, students should make use of them in a good way, develop their intelligence and general knowledge and equip themselves to face any number of competitive examinations in future. The distribution of laptops, costing Rs.26.37 crore to a total of 21,493 students – 9,115 boys and 12,378 girls from 78 Government Higher Secondary Schools and 4 Government Aided Higher Secondary Schools - is inaugurated today through a token distribution to 56 students. The break up of the number of student beneficiaries is: 6,172 students from 20 schools in Edappadi, 3,661 fom 18 schools in Gangavalli assembly constituency, 4,823 from 20 schools in Yercaud assembly constituency, 3,923 from 15 schools in Athur assembly constituency and 2,914 from 9 schools in Salem (West) assembly constituency.

To totally eradicate the phenomenon of drop-outs in schools, many facilities were provided and this has increased the number of learners. Tamil Nadu is now shining as the best state in education. There are 76 Government Arts and Science Colleges in the State. Hon'ble Amma set up many colleges - polytechnic, medical, engineering, veterinary, agriculture and ITI - and helped poor students in rural and urban areas to get excellent education at low cost. Accepting the demand of Edappadi people, Hon'ble Amma set up a Government Arts and Science College for Edappadi in the year 2011 itself.

To mark the inauguration of the distribution of smart cards to students from the first to 12th standards in Government and Government-aided Schools in Salem District, a token distribution was made to 2 students.

Through the Revenue Department, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.6.41 crore is distributed to 319 persons. This includes scholarship to 54 persons, old age pension to 46, differently abled assistance to 30, marriage assistance to 8, widow pension to 6, farm labour assistance to 2, assistance to women deserted by husband to 2, spinster assistance to 2 persons, house pattas to 39 and urban land tax pattas to 130 persons.

Under the Chief Minister Solar Powered Green House scheme and Prime Minister Housing Scheme, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is giving subsidy assistance of Rs.1.88 crore to 100 beneficiaries for construction of houses.

On behalf of the Department of Co-operation, loans to the tune of Rs.1.05 crore are disbursed to 182 persons – by way of crop loan to 108 persons, Self Help Group loan to 73 persons and a medium-term loan to one person.

Other types of assistance include Rs.58 lakh (subsidy and bank loan) to 106 women – subsidy to 100 women under the distribution scheme of two wheelers to working women and bank loan to 6 women Self Help Groups; agricultural implements and welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.14.28 lakh to 25 beneficiaries through Horticulture Department; drip irrigation implements and other welfare assistance to 60 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs.10.74 lakh through the Agriculture Department; subsidy of Rs.4.08 lakh to 2 persons through the District Industrial Centre under the New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme; equipment and farm tools worth Rs.1.05 lakh to 2 persons through the Department of Silk Development for rearing silk worm; marriage assistance of Rs.25,000 and 8 grams gold for '*Mangalyam*' to one differently abled person and a retro-fitted petrol scooter costing Rs.52,682 to another differently abled person through the Department of Welfare of Differently Abled Persons; and a sewing machine costing Rs.9,000 to a beneficiary through the Department of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare.

I am happy to say that different types of welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.39.60 crore have been distributed to 22,294 beneficiaries in this function. I thank all those who have participated in this function.

Hon'ble Chief Minister declares open Synthetic athletic track worth Rs.6.69 crore at Tiruvannamalai Sports Stadium

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 14.08.2019, a synthetic athletic track with floodlight facility, set up by the Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development at a cost of Rs.6.69 crore at the Tiruvannamalai District sports stadium. Also declared open were hostel buildings for sportspersons constructed at a cost of Rs.2.66 crore across the State.

To help Tamil Nadu sportspersons, both men and women, participate in various competitions held at the national and international levels and win medals, the Tamil Nadu Government that works on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is taking many steps like giving training to them, setting up hostels for them to stay and undergo training, holding village sports competitions to encourage rural sportspersons, developing District playgrounds, incentivizing traditional sports, providing high cash incentives and financial assistance to sportspersons participating in international competitions.

The Tamil Nadu Government is taking steps to set up in every District Headquarters an open-air sports stadium, an indoor stadium and a swimming pool. Towards this end, a Synthetic Athletic Track has been set up with floodlights, water sprayers and drainage facilities, at an estimate of Rs.6.69 crore at the Tiruvannamalai District Stadium with Central and State Government assistance.

The hostels declared open are the ones for college students taking hockey training at Kovilpatti, Thoothukkudi (Rs.1.13 crore), with

rooms for students, kitchen, dining hall, toilet, bathroom, rooms for trainer and caretaker, a physical exercise hall and a visitors hall; one for women sportspersons at Pudukkottai District Sports Stadium, constructed at a cost of Rs.55.55 lakh and an additional hostel building to the sports hostel at Madurai District Sports Stadium (Rs.97 lakh). Totally, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority, buildings and sports facilities worth Rs.9.35 crore.

At the Commonwealth Senior and Veteran Fencing Championships, held at Canberra in Australia between 23.11.2018 and 28.11.2018, Selvi C.A. Bhavani Devi and Thiru. K.P. Gisho Nidhiof Tamil Nadu won gold medals. Thiru. S. Arokiya Rajiv of Tamil Nadu won a silver medal in the mixed-gender 4 x 400 metre relays division of the Asian Athletic Championships held at Doha in Qatar between 22.04.2019 and 24.04.2019.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented cheques of Rs.10 lakh each to Selvi C.A.Bhavani Devi and Thiru. K.P. Gisho Nidhi, the high incentive for gold medallists in international competitions and a cheque for Rs.5 lakh to Thiru.Arokia Rajiv, the incentive for silver medallists.

Hon'ble Chief Minister greets P.V. Sindhu for conquering the World for India

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami - 25.08.2019

On behalf of the people and Government of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate Ms. P.V. Sindhu for her outstanding performance in the World Badminton Championship held at Basel, Switzerland. She has done the nation proud by winning the World Badminton Championship. Her hard work, determination and dedication has enabled her to scale such heights of brilliance in her chosen sport. She is an example of what women can achieve, when they set their minds to it. She is a great role model for all women.

I also congratulate Ms P.V. Sindhu's parents, her coach, and all other persons who have contributed to her success.

Fourteen river bridges, 2 railway bridges inaugurated for smooth traffic, road safety

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open at the Secretariat on 14.08.2019 through video conferencing, 14 river bridges, a railway overbridge and an under bridge, totally costing Rs.56.95 crore across the State.

Realizing the importance of road infrastructure facilities in the socio-economic development of the State, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing with one-pointed attention works like construction of new bridges throughout the State, laying quality roads at required places and maintaining roads and bridges for increasing the road capacity to the needed level and for ensuring safe travel.

Towards this end, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open a bridge across Porunthalaru at Porunthal Village, Dindigul District, constructed at a cost of Rs.5.94 crore. Other river bridges declared open were: one over Anakkavur Lake in Anakkavur, Tiruvannamalai District (Rs.3.37 crore), at Kolappalur in Erode District (Rs.1.76 crore), at Nandanur in Karur District (Rs.80 lakh), across an Odai in Annadhasampalayam in Coimbatore District (Rs.1.25 crore), one across Nariyaru in Uranipuram (Rs.2.75 crore), across Avudaiyar temple *kanmai* (Rs.1.21 crore), across a kanmai in Kamalakudi (Rs.1.21 crore) and one across a branch channel of Grand Anaicut canal at Pattamudaiyan (Rs.71 lakh) – all in Pudukkottai District; across Gundaru at Nedunkulam in Madurai District (Rs.2 crore); across Varattaru at Morpatti (Rs.1.98 crore), across a jungle stream at Velayudhampalayam (Rs.2 crore) - both in Dindigul District; across an *Odai* in Uruvatti in Sivagangai District (Rs.1.60 crore) and across an *Odai* in Anandur in Ramanathapuram District (Rs.88 lakh); a railway overbridge between the Kattur and Lalgudi railway stations in lieu of the railway level crossing No.228 on the Siruthaiyur-Coleroon Bank road (Rs.26.60 crore) and a railway under bridge (Rs.2.89 crore) between Manamadurai and Paramakudi railway stations on the Maravamangalam-Ilayankudi-Paramakudi-Mudukulathur-Sayalkudi road.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented keys of jeeps to 5 officers of the Highways Department to mark the distribution of 20 jeeps (Rs.1.35 crore) to Department officials, as a first phase, for monitoring works in the national highways and to undertake field surveys.

Hon'ble Chief Minister dedicates completed scheme works valued at Rs. 112.62 crore

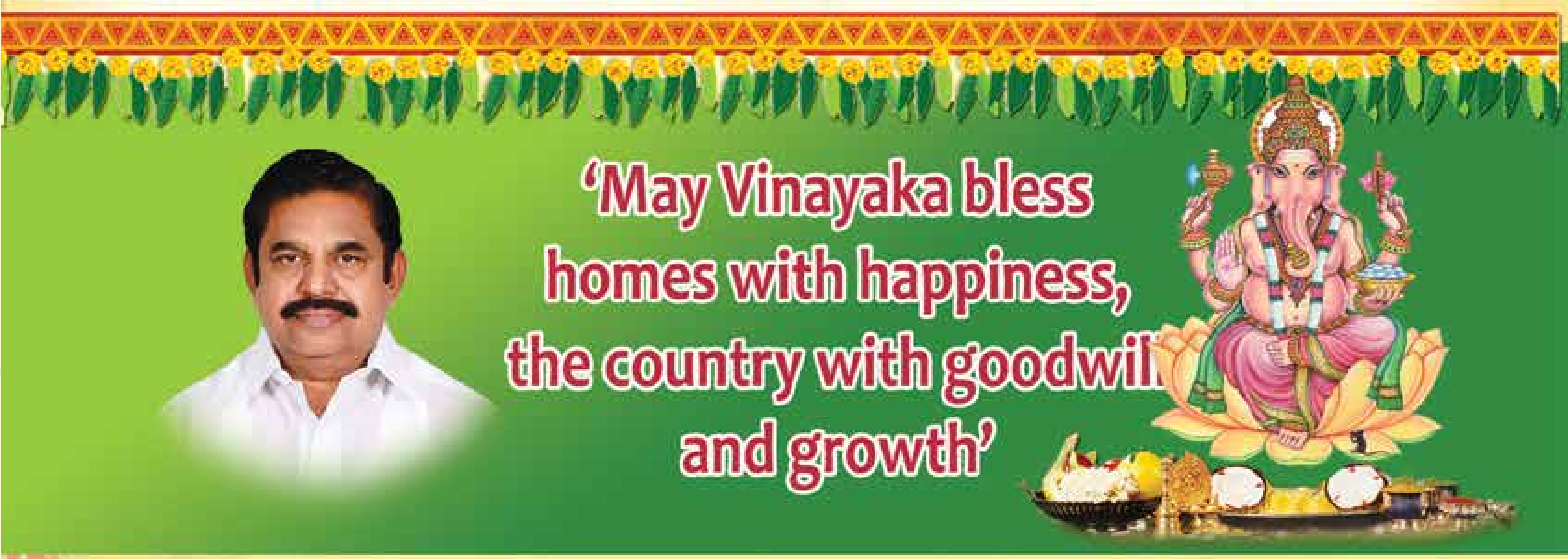
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami commissioned through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 14.08.2019, the underground drainage system, completed at Kathivakkam, Thiruvottiyur zone, Chennai District at a cost of Rs.86.15 crore by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open the completed scheme works, costing Rs.36.47 crore, of Municipalities, Town Panchayats and Greater Chennai Corporation.

To provide safe drinking water to meet the present and future needs of Greater Chennai and also offer drainage services, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing works like improving the existing infrastructure, planning and creating needed infrastructure for the present and future, operating them and executing schemes with a visionary outlook. The implementation of these works is done by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Other completed works declared open/ inaugurated were: roof top solar power plants (with a total capacity of 3.064 MW), installed in 662 Greater Chennai Corporation buildings inclusive of Amma Maaligai, Zonal Offices, Hospitals and Schools, at a cost of Rs.24.03 crore to generate 12,000 to 13,000 units of electricity per day, thus saving about Rs.3 crore a year by way of electricity charges; rooms constructed (third phase), for washermen at a cost of Rs.3.10 crore for resting, laundering, scrubbing and drying clothes at Saidapet, Chennai; 2 Urban Primary Health Centre buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.86 crore at Sakthi Nagar Main Road, Porur and at Perumal Koil Street, Nerkundram (both at Chennai); an Urban Primary Health Centre and Ward Office building, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.99 crore at Bhajanai Koil Street, Ramapuram (Chennai);

a park set up at a cost of Rs.2.39 crore at Anna Highway, Perungudi, Chennai on an area of 5,000 sq. metres with facilities like pavement, playground for children, open-air physical exercise tools, two badminton courts, water, electricity, lawn and compound wall; a fish day bazaar, constructed at a cost of Rs.One crore near Kazhanivasal weekly shandy in Karaikudi Municipality, Sivagangai District (Department of Municipal Administration), a visitors hostel, constructed at a cost of Rs.50 lakh in Government hospital in Polur Town Panchayat, Tiruvannamalai District, the Town Panchayat office building, constructed at a cost of Rs.60 lakh in R.S.Mangalam Town Panchayat, Ramanathapuram District, modernization of the bus stand at Sivagiri Town Panchayat, Erode District at a cost of Rs.One crore. Totally, completed scheme works valued at Rs.122.62 crore were declared open inaugurated.



Greetings of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on the occasion of Vinayaka Chaturthi - 01.09.2019. *(English Translation)*

I extend my heartiest greetings to the people who are joyfully celebrating Vinayaka Chaturthi, the 'Avatar' Day of Lord Vinayaka, who is called 'Aindu Karathan' by His devotees.

'*Vellaik Komban Vinayakanai Thozha*
Thulli odum Thodarntha Vinaigale'.

(If you worship Lord Vinayaka with the white tusk, evils will fly off automatically).

People celebrate Vinayaka Chaturthi festival enthusiastically by decorating their houses with flowers and offering pujas to idols of Lord Vinayaka made of clay, with garlands of *Arugam* grass, *Erukkam*, *Sembaruthi* and *Arali* flowers, and *Vilva* leaves. They offer spiced pulses, puffed rice, pounded rice, sugar cane and fruits to the Lord.

On this day of the avatar of Lord Vinayaka who sanctions whatever boons one asks for, I pray for love and happiness in houses and peace, goodwill and growth in the country. I once again express my Vinayaka Chaturthi greetings to all people.

Fossil Museum in Ariyalur to showcase region's ancient history

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 14.08.2019, Rs.2 crore Field Fossil Museum, constructed at Varanavasi in Ariyalur District. Also declared open were buildings constructed for the Egmore Government Museum and for the Department of Tourism and Culture and Religious Endowments at a cost of Rs.4.44 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a Government music school to be constructed at an estimate of Rs.One crore in Pudukkottai District.

Ariyalur is one of the centres in the world abounding in Field Fossils. This region is important geologically and in Field Fossils. It contains the Field Fossils of marine creatures belonging to the cretaceous and quaternary periods. These fossils provide information on the ancient history of Indian geological formations. Considering the ongoing rapid industrialization and its impact as well as the need to protect Field Fossils, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced at the conference of District Collectors and high Police Officials, held on 19.12.2012, that a Field Fossil Museum would be created at Ariyalur.

In accordance with that announcement, 54 hectares of land, containing field fossils, were allotted in Varanavasi, Ariyalur District and the museum was set up at a cost of Rs.2 crore. The display of exhibits in this museum is as per the geological time frame up, importance of the fossils and in a way to safeguard them.

The other buildings declared open were: a video demonstration hall inclusive of ticket counters, a strong room for articles and sales counter for the museum's publications (Rs.1.03 crore), newly constructed buildings on 424.44 sq. metres in Samudram Village, Tiruvannamalai Taluk for the Tiruvannamalai District Government Music School (Rs.85 lakh), a granite compound wall, a hostel for students and two craft training halls for the Government College of Architecture and

Sculpture, Mamallapuram, Kancheepuram District (Rs.2.55 crore) (both coming under the Department of Art and Culture). Totally buildings costing Rs.6,43,50,000 were declared open.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a music school building to be constructed on a 314 sq.metre area in Pudukkottai Taluk at a cost of Rs.One crore for the Pudukkottai District Government Music School.

With 11 luxury buses, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation is at present offering 38 types of tours to inland and foreign tourists for durations ranging from half-a-day to 14 days. Besides these, it is arranging customized tours as per needs and concessional holiday tours for Government servants. For better service to tourists, the Corporation purchased a Volvo air-conditioned luxury bus with 43 seats. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated its service by flagging it off. ■

148th Birth anniversary of Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.Chidambaranar

In connection with the 148th birth anniversary of Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.Chidambaranar on 05.09.2019, the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Revenue Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin, and Director of Information and Public Relations Dr.P.Sankar, I.A.S., paid floral tributes on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government to the decorated portrait placed near the statue of Thiru. V.O.Chidambaranar on Rajaji Salai at Chennai.

Boost to Farmer Producer Organisations through Primary Processing Centres

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami handed over on behalf of the Agriculture Department at the Secretariat on 14.08.2019, orders to 7 Farmer Producer Organisations, assigning them, as market co-ordinators, Primary Processing Centres for carrying out day-to-day work and maintenance. The handing over is a token to mark the distribution of such orders to 13 Farmer Producer Organisations, assigning 25 Primary Processing Centres to them in the first phase.

The primary processing Centres are being set up under the Supply Chain Management scheme for fruits, vegetables and perishable articles. The scheme, a first in the country, is implemented in Tamil Nadu with the major aims of creating necessary infrastructure for strengthening the supply chain for fruits, vegetables and other perishable commodities, reducing post-harvest loss, extending storage time-frame, creating connectivity among traders in the supply chain, helping in marketing through co-ordination with big market centres, processors and consumers, to enable farmers to get due price for their products, and helping other investors to participate in the supply chain.

The scheme is under implementation in the 10 Districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Tiruchirapalli, Dindigul, Theni, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli at a cost of Rs.482.36 crore.

To reduce post-harvest loss and to ensure fair price to farmers, 64 Primary Processing Centres are being set up with facilities for cleaning, categorising and grading the produce. Infrastructure facilities like packaging room, primary processing machines according to type of produce, refrigerated storage facility and godowns are being established. To encourage fruit and vegetable export, facilities like packaging hall of APEDA standard (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), Individual Quick Freezing (IQF), Hot water/Vapour Heat treatment Plant and radiation hall have been created in some of the primary processing stations.

The market co-ordinator will be selected through tenders. The farmer-producer companies selected as co-ordinators will operate the primary processing stations on concessional basis.

Office-cum-residence buildings for firka surveyors in 17 Districts

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open on 14.08.2019 at the Secretariat on behalf of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, 17 office-cum-residence buildings for firka surveyors in the Districts of Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchirapalli, Karur, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Kancheepuram and Vellore.

In accordance with the excellent principle 'Government in the search of people', the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management takes Government's welfare schemes to the people and acts as a bridge between them and the Government. For the development of this Department, the Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is implementing many schemes like creation of new Revenue Taluks and construction of own buildings and dwelling units for the Department and staff respectively.

In that way, 17 office-cum-residence buildings for firka surveyors were constructed and declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The buildings are located at Gummudipoondi (Tiruvallur District), Keezhpennathur (Tiruvannamalai), Valadi and Thottiyam (Tiruchirapalli), Panjapatti (Karur), Velampalayam (Tiruppur), Otthakal Mandapam (Coimbatore), Pappireddipatti (Dharmapuri), Kokkulam and Nagamalai (Madurai), Salwarpatti (Virudhunagar), Rameswaram and Tiruvadanai (Ramanathapuram), Tiruppattur and S.S.Kottai (Sivagangai), Tirukazhukundram (Kancheepuram) and Gudiyatham (Vellore).

In the Survey and settlement Department, works like surveying land, maintaining land documents and registering details of land ownership and subsequent changes that take place in the appropriate registers, are undertaken. Eleven persons have been appointed in the Directorate of Survey and settlement on compassionate grounds to fill up vacancies of land surveyor, draftsman, junior assistant and office assistant. Hon'ble Chief Minister presented appointment orders to 7 persons today as a token to mark the distribution of orders to 11 persons.

Kaspa, Ariyur get railway overbridge built at a cost of Rs.58.34 crore

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 26.08.2019, declared open for public use, two railway overbridges in Vellore District, one at Kaspa and the other at Ariyur, both built at a cost of Rs.58.34 crore, on behalf of the Highways and Small Ports Department.

Realising the importance of road infrastructure in the social and economic development of the State, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. is constructing new bridges and laying new roads of quality to cope with the increasing volume of traffic and to ensure safe travel for road users.

In this connection, at Kaspa railway level-crossing between Cantonment and Kaniyambadi Railway Stations, a rail overbridge, built at a cost of Rs.36.38 crore and another overbridge at Ariyur, built at a cost of Rs.21.96 crore, totalling Rs.58.34 crore, were dedicated for public use by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. ■